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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-215 *7 November 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

King, Rabin To Open Northern Crossing 10 Nov

JN0611093294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Nov 94 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The northern crossing linking Jordan and Israel at Shaykh Husayn Bridge in the Northern Ghawr area is expected to be inaugurated on Thursday, 10 November, in a brief ceremony sponsored by His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

AL-RA'Y has learned that His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. Rabin are expected to hold bilateral talks on the fringes of the ceremony on the implementation of the peace treaty signed between the two countries on 26 October.

It is worth mentioning that the northern crossing was mentioned in the Washington Declaration signed last July. The southern crossing was opened in Wadi al-'Arabah area in the same month.

Negotiations Over Palestinian Elections Postponed

NC0511113194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—The fifth round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over legislative elections in the self-rule areas, which were scheduled to begin tomorrow, Sunday, [6 November] in Cairo have been postponed until Monday or Tuesday.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo have reported that a definite date for the beginning of the fifth round will be determined in light of the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Erez checkpoint between Gaza and Israel on Monday. The two agreed to hold this meeting during the Casablanca economic summit.

The sources expect that if the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting is not held, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the legislative elections issue will begin on Monday.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian self-rule authority, will lead the Palestinian delegation, while Dani Rothschild, coordinator of the government's activities in the occupied territories, will head the Israeli team.

Israel Said To Seek Break in U.S. Shuttle Missions

TA0711102494 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel is requesting a break in the U.S. shuttle missions between Jerusalem and Damascus, although it does want to preserve a certain momentum. This was stated by political sources in Jerusalem, who further noted that due to this new Israeli inclination, Secretary of State Warren Christopher may agree to delay his return to the region until next month instead of holding his next shuttle mission later this month.

The sources say that since it is clear that Syria will not soften its positions and will refuse to reach understandings and compromises in the shadow of the agreements with Jordan and the Palestinians, Israel should give al-Asad a respite so that he can emerge as the sole leading actor on the stage.

The sources therefore believe there is no point in a visit by the secretary of state at this stage, arguing that for the time being Israel should make do with the talks Ambassador Rabinovich is conducted in Washington with Syrian Amb. Walid al-Mu'allim, in which the two are discussing all the aspects of the bilateral negotiations. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Addresses Various Issues

Insists on Peace Before Cooperation

NC0311222294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has declared that it is not possible to proceed along the path of economic cooperation among the Middle Eastern countries without first achieving a comprehensive and just regional peace on the basis of international legality and UN resolutions and making real progress on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks. The secretary general made these remarks during his meeting this evening with Jan Kalicki, counselor to the U.S. Department of Commerce. 'Abd-al-Majid explained that the direct Arab boycott of Israel will continue because it is linked to the establishment of Arab-Israeli peace.

Seeks Fair Trial for Libyans

NC0611163494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that the Arab League will pursue its efforts to ensure a fair trial for the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie incident. After meeting the U.S., French, and British ambassadors this morning, 'Abd-al-Majid said the trial will be in line with the resolution passed by the seven-member [Arab] committee in its meeting in New York in October and will preserve Libya's sovereignty. The Arab League secretary general received the three ambassadors at their request. He was briefed on their governments' stance on the Libyan-Western crisis and

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on the statement issued by the three countries as they reviewed Libya's response to Security Council Resolution 748 of 1992.

Urges Iran To Respect UAE Borders

NC0611173194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said today that the Arab League is deeply concerned about Iran's bolstering its military presence in the Abu Musa islands, which are disputed with the United Arab Emirates.

In press statements, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the military maneuvers started by Iran at the end of October, which included a naval landing on Abu Musa island, are a source of tension in this sensitive region and do not reflect an Iranian desire to resolve this conflict through peaceful means and channels.

He praised the French stand that supports the UAE's position of resorting to the International Court of Justice to look into solving this conflict through peaceful means.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the Arab League's stand, which is based on support for the UAE's commitment to full sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra. He called on Iran to respect the promises and charters signed with the UAE and the latter's right to sovereignty over the three islands.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Summit To be Held in Morocco 12-14 Dec

LD0611192494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1904 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 6 Nov—Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has announced that the 7th Islamic summit conference will be held in the Kingdom of Morocco from 12-14 December 1994. This was decided following consultations between the Moroccan Government and the ICO secretary general.

A statement by the ICO secretary general said that in preparation for the 7th Islamic summit, a meeting of senior officials will be held on 9 December 1994, and the 22nd Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference will be held on the 10th and 11th December 1994 in Morocco.

The statement added that on the basis of the 21st Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Karachi last year, the meeting of senior officials will be held in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from the 7-12 November 1994 in preparation for the 22nd Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference. [passage omitted]

Political Islamic Affairs: 'AQIDATI 25 Oct

NC0111105894

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 October edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Editorial Says Pulpits Used To Instigate Terrorism
2. Religious Convoy Meets With Central Security Forces Personnel
3. Minister Warns Merchants, Industrialists Against Trade Fraud
4. Controversy Over Film "Emigrant"

EDITORIAL SAYS PULPITS USED TO INSTIGATE TERRORISM

In a 300-word front-page editorial, Samir Rajab, chief of the board of directors of the newspaper, asks: "How long will the pulpits of the mosques continue to be used to instigate terrorism and the shedding of innocent blood and to encourage the advocates of sedition to persist in their transgression and misguidance?" He also asks: "What can the Ministry of Awqaf do to extremist preachers while the atmosphere of freedom and democracy prevails in all Egypt?" Apparently alluding to a certain preacher, without naming him, who has been attacking the famous writer Najib Mahfuz, winner of the Noble Prize for literature, Rajab adds: "I never imagined that a preacher would ascend the pulpit to attack writer Najib Mahfuz, his novels, and writings while the man is in hospital recovering from a dirty assassination attempt." This means that the "eminent preacher justifies for the perpetrators of the crime their ugly deed and gives the cue to others to commit similar crimes." Rajab asks: "Frankly speaking, is this logical? And have the mosques become a theater for settling personal accounts?"

Rajab says the same preacher used to work as an adviser to one of the money investment companies which "mismanaged the funds of Muslims and squandered them on the whims and lusts of the companies' owners and advisers." When these companies stopped their activity, this adviser thought the government was responsible for his lost earnings. Therefore, he seizes every opportunity to "stab" the government and "so long as the government is fighting terrorism, he is with the terrorists and against it."

RELIGIOUS CONVOY MEETS WITH CENTRAL SECURITY FORCES PERSONNEL

A 150-word report on page 1 says that an " 'AQIDATI scholars group" met with the Central Security Forces personnel in a seminar on 22 October. The scholars spoke about "the role of the security forces in protecting the homeland and safeguarding the citizens' life, honor, property, and freedom, from the perspective of Islam.."

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The group consisted of Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and al-Azhar Professors Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abduh, Dr. 'Id Muhammad al- Tayyib, Dr. Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Mitnawi, and Dr. Mahmud Nuwayshi. The proceedings of the seminar will be published in the next issue of the newspaper.

MINISTER WARNS MERCHANTS, INDUSTRIALISTS AGAINST TRADE FRAUD

A 150-word report on page 1 says that "Muslim scholars have affirmed that the merchant or industrialist who offers the citizens adulterated goods that cause the death of any consumer is considered to have committed premeditated murder." Supply Minister Dr. Ahmad Juwayli said that "there is no leniency with dishonest merchants and industrialists. The ministry will not hesitate to take all preventive measures to protect the Egyptian society from trade fraud." In an exclusive statement to 'AQIDATI, the minister said greed and the desire for quick profit are the reasons behind this phenomenon afflicting the Egyptian society.

CONTROVERSY OVER FILM "EMIGRANT"

A 50-word report on page 1 says the Urgent Matters Court in 'Abidin in Cairo will today examine a suit filed by attorney Mahmud Abu-al-Ghayd for stopping and seizing the film "Emigrant." The suit maintains that the film, by director Yusuf Shahin, ridicules and insults the Prophet Joseph, whose story is mentioned in the Old Testament and more elaborately in the Koran. In a related 100-word report by Musa Hal on page 1, a responsible source in the Islamic Research Center in al-Azhar says that the Quality Control Committee of Artistic Works has "deceived" al-Azhar by not submitting to it the scenario of "Emigrant." The source maintains that "it is the same scenario of the story of Joseph and his brothers which was earlier rejected by al-Azhar." The source explains that the control committee submitted to al-Azhar the scenario of Joseph and his brothers two years ago. A committee from the Islamic Research Center, which studied the scenario, made some observations and noted the historic and religious errors in the scenario. The committee was notified of these observations and errors. The source says that al-Azhar will explain its view of "Emigrant" when asked to testify before the court. Shedding more light on the controversy surrounding the film, a 1,000-word report on page 18 says the film "Emigrant" has "caused a storm of protest which has not calmed yet" for distorting the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob, and disparaging Egyptian history and the Egyptian people. A number of film directors and actors note that the film was funded by unnamed French nationals and they criticize the film for containing hints and perhaps scenes suggesting homosexuality. Film Director Ahmad Badr-al-Din says the contents of the film "are against all our creeds, ideas, and history." A certain Rashwan Tawfiq says "I have been much hurt by Yusuf Shahin's emphasis on homosexuality in this film. I am angry because he has made the film's actors suffer from this. I don't see the technical necessity that induces Yusuf Shahin to present homosexuality in his films." Actor Sa'id Marzuq says: "What is the story of homosexuality which has become a permanent fixture and a trademark of Yusuf Shahin's films?" A 200-word report signed by the initials 'AH on page 18 calls for the seizure of this "accursed" film which disparages "religions and the history of our ancestors" and which depicts the Egyptians as a "nation of homosexuals."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Hamas, Islamic Jihad Delegation

JN0411195394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received a joint delegation representing Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad Movement. The conferees discussed the circumstances of the martyrdom of brother Hani al-'Abid on 2 November in Khan Yunus. They also discussed what happened yesterday at the 'Umari Mosque.

The delegation expressed its apology for what happened, denouncing the action of some irresponsible elements during the prayer service held for the martyr at the 'Umari Mosque.

The delegation said those elements, which offended national ranks, are extraneous elements that have departed from the ranks and the traditions of our people. The delegation also praised the wise conduct of the official Palestinian agencies and the self-restraint and high sense of responsibility demonstrated by the security and police forces and the special guards of the president.

Islamic Jihad Leader on Targeting Israeli Leaders

TA0411135294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 p A3

[Report by correspondent in the Gaza Strip 'Amira Hess]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "During all the years of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict only Palestinian leaders were killed, not Israeli leaders. Thus the Israeli leaders have never personally experienced the problem. Now, after Hani al-'Abid's assassination, this could change." This was said yesterday by a very senior Islamic Jihad activist who prefers to remain anonymous. The activist told HA'ARETZ that he is convinced Rabin gave the order for the assassination, which constitutes a declaration of war.

Asked whether 'Arafat could have been interested in the murder, considering that he has often described Islamic Jihad as "a non-Palestinian organization controlled by a foreign state (namely, Iran)," the activist replied: "It is true 'Arafat shares some interests with the Israeli regime, but al-'Abid's assassination was surely not one of them.

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'Arafat knows very well this is a red line he must not cross." He added: "Every military operation is dictated by a political strategy and is buttressed by a certain political logic. When Rabin kills 40 Hizballah members he knows very well that they will kill 300 Jews in return. This means that he will be responsible for the death of 300 Jews. The present intention is to exacerbate the violence among the Palestinians. Whoever gave the order to kill al-'Abid wants war." [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Leader Rejects Rabin's Conditions

TA0611153994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the leader of Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, has said that his organization will not negotiate with Israel on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's conditions; namely, recognizing Israel and stopping murderous attacks on Jews.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Shaykh al-Shami went on to say that Muslims will never recognize the existence of the State of Israel and that attacks will not stop.

Islamic Jihad Spokesman: 'Jihad' Will Not Stop

JN0611202894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Replying to the statements made by terrorist Rabin on his readiness to negotiate with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine if they recognize his entity and abandon what he terms as terrorism, the media spokesman of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has made a press statement.

He said: The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine reasserts that under no circumstances will it recognize the Zionist entity or stop jihad as long as occupation exists in Palestine. Any solution to the Palestine question will not achieve peace unless such peace is part of regaining [words indistinct] from their land and deported and their homes were confiscated [words indistinct] the Jews from various world areas.

The spokesman added: The negotiations which the Zionists held, and are holding, with the capitulationists have proved that they are based on arrogance and humiliation. The peace they are talking about is peace only in name. Moreover, the solutions proposed by the Zionists will not bring about peace, and are even worse than war.

He continued: The statements made by terrorist Rabin aim to mislead public opinion and distort the positions of the mujahidin. They are an attempt to conceal the Zionist scheme designed to escalate the terrorist Zionist war against the mujahidin. This war is represented by booby-trapped cars and indiscriminate killings such as the criminal assassination of Hani al-'Abid, a journalist and a university lecturer.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: We are expressing our legitimate right to defend both a just cause and a defenseless people. On the contrary, terrorism is what the successive Zionist governments are practicing against our Palestinian people and the Lebanese people. This is the kind of action that deserves to be condemned by the international community and to be firmly confronted in solidarity with our people who love the free and decent life. Our people also love humanity, stemming from the principles of our true religion which seeks the welfare of the entire mankind and which does not view others as gentiles [aghyar]. This is contrary to the views of the Zionists who embody the worst kind of racism and ethnic arrogance.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine

Reportage on Status of Hamas, of Israeli Dialogue

Hamas Dismisses Offer

NC0511200294 Paris AFP in English 1932 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Nov 5 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) dismissed Saturday [5 November] as a "test balloon" an Israeli offer to strike a dialogue with the extremist movement, active in the occupied territories.

"There is still a wide gap between Israel's words and deeds," said Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal. "What is being done on the ground totally contradicts the Israeli offers for dialogue or participation in elections," he told AFP.

Israel's Deputy Defence Minister Mordekhay Gur said Saturday his country accepted the principle of dialogue with HAMAS, and its eventual participation in the self-rule elections, slated to take place toward the end of 1994.

"We don't know whether Gur's remarks represents an official government line or merely test balloons," noted the Hamas official. "There is still a discrepancy between the statements of Israeli officials."

He said such statements were meant as a "propaganda and a cover for what is actually taking place on the ground," in the occupied territories.

Nazzal reiterated his movement's stance on self-rule elections. "Our potential participation is contingent on carrying free legislative elections isolated from the Oslo (self-rule) pact," he said, adding that "such elections should lead to bringing about a new Palestinian leadership to replace the Palestinian Authority, which had been imposed on the people."

The Hamas official reiterated his movement's offer for a halt to killing civilians on both sides. "It is been more than five months since we offered this proposal and it fell on deaf ears."

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Al-Zahhar: Gur's Remarks 'Hot Air'

TA0611093294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, describes Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur's remarks regarding the possibility of negotiations with Hamas as hot air. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Zahhar said Israel must clearly state its willingness to hold cease-fire negotiations with Hamas.

Al-Zahhar on Readiness for Dialogue

JN0611134694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, has said that at this point in time his movement is ready to start dialogue with Israel on one issue only, that is, agreeing to a truce whereby civilians from both sides will be spared all acts of violence. Dr. al-Zahhar was reacting to a statement by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur yesterday, in which he did not rule out dialogue with Hamas if it took part in the elections in the territories and secured representation in the self-rule council.

Speaking to our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid, Dr. al-Zahhar said he believes Hamas' response to the Israeli Government's announcement in this regard will be positive, but on condition that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and Palestinian women prisoners are released in the first stage, and others scheduled to be released later.

Dr. al-Zahhar added that any dialogue between Israel and Hamas will be held with the participation of the Palestinian Authority or the PLO.

Hamas Spokesman Rejects 'Dialogue'

JN0611181294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official Hamas spokesman, by Ahmad Birru in the studio; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] Will Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movmement] participate in the legislative elections of the autonomous areas or hold a dialogue with Israel?

[Ghawshah] First of all, our official stand on the autonomous areas is very clear and definitive. We refuse to participate in them because they are part of the Oslo and Cairo agreement. We demand legislative elections covering the Palestinian people at home and abroad, something which is not being discussed at present.

As for the dialogue, the Hamas Movement cannot hold a dialogue with the usurper enemy who is now occupying the Palestinian territory after expelling the Palestinian people. This enemy is oppressing this people day and night. This proposal, which was offered by Gur and before him by Shahal and Beilin, is within Israeli tactics to influence Hamas' cohesive ranks.

[Birru] You say you will not participate in any form in the local council elections?

[Ghawshah] On the autonomous elections, the Hamas Movement's stand is clear; it is a refusal to participate in them. However, the Islamic Hamas Movement has been participating for a long time in any elections to serve the Palestinian people, such as the municipalities, establishments, and trade unions, and will continue to participate in them.

[Birru] What are your current links with the Palestinian autonomous authority? Do you have any points in common? What are they? To what extent do you support this local authority?

[Ghawshah] It is well known that the autonomous authority originated from the Zionist occupation. Therefore, there are deep-rooted political differences between the Hamas Movement and 'Arafat's authority. At the same time, Hamas is careful not to make these political differences cause friction in the field or in any inter-Palestinian struggle. Hamas is careful to concentrate its jihad and resistance against the Zionist occupation—a struggle which is judged as legitimate by all heavenly and mundane laws. At the same time, Hamas insists on not being dragged into any inter-Palestinian clash.

[Birru] The Hamas Movement members will not obstruct the activities of the Palestinian Authority in places where Israeli forces do not exist; that is, Gaza, Jericho and areas that might fall within the Palestinian Authority's control in the future?

[Ghawshah] The Hamas Movement deals with the Palestinian authority from the popular and political viewpoint. It deals with the Zionist occupation just like any other people whose land is occupied, namely, resistance by all means. As for the Gaza Strip, there is no full withdrawal. More than 30 percent of the Strip is still under Zionist occupation. Wherever there is Zionist occupation, there will be a legitimate resistance against this occupation.

Hamas Renews Cease-Fire Proposal

NC0611192594 Paris AFP in English 1844 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Nov 6 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) renewed Sunday [6 November] its proposal to Israel to halt the killing of civilians on both sides, but it rejected any dialogue with the Jewish state.

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said the hardline Palestinian group was "ready to halt operations against Israeli civilians should (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq)

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Rabin issue orders to stop the killing of Palestinians and the demolition of their houses."

The offer dated back to April 1994 but Israel had never responded to it, Ghawshah said.

He refused to link the offer to opening a dialogue with Israel. "The dialogue is rejected and our participation in (Palestinian) self-rule elections is rejected," he said.

"Hamas would only join free legislative elections in and outside the occupied Palestinian territories," he added.

Several Israeli officials have raised the possibility of talks with Hamas, which has carried out a string of anti-Israeli attacks including the October 19 suicide bus bombing in Tel Aviv that killed 22 Israelis.

On Saturday, Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechay Gur said his country could hold talks with Hamas if it entered the Palestinian self-rule authority after democratic elections.

But the Hamas representative in Jordan, Muhammad Nazzal, reacted with skepticism saying "there is still a wide gap between Israel's words and deeds."

Rabin later spelt out the conditions for opening a dialogue with Hamas, saying it would take a miracle for such talks to materialise.

"If they decide to halt terrorism, if they recognise the state of Israel and stop killing Jews just because they are Jews, then, if such a miracle occurs," a dialogue would be possible, Rabin told a press conference.

Hamas: Negotiations Through 3d Party

JN0711082094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said Hamas is prepared to stop attacking Israeli civilians if Israel stops murdering Palestinians.

In a statement yesterday, Ghawshah said Hamas will never agree to hold direct talks with [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin but is prepared to hold negotiations with Israel through a third party, such as the International Red Cross.

Ghawshah stressed that even if Hamas stops attacks against Israeli civilians, it will continue its operations against the Israeli Army bases until the occupation of Palestinian territory is terminated.

Palestinian Authority, 'Arafat Receive Ciller

JN0511173594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from the Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the National Authority [NA], has stated that the meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin has been postponed until next Tuesday. The meeting was originally scheduled for the day after tomorrow, Monday. 'Urayqat said this at the end of the NA government meeting held this morning under President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the NA.

'Urayqat spoke about the topics discussed in today's weekly meeting. He said that many issues were discussed, including the Israeli measures to establish new facts on the ground. The minister said that these measures violate the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The ministers also discussed the results of President 'Arafat's meetings in Casablanca, the issue of taxes and when they are due, and elections.

On the issue of the martyrdom of Professor Hani al-'Abid, 'Urayqat said that the security services continue their investigations. He described the incident as serious and one which will have very serious repercussions. 'Urayqat said that the NA is responsible for protecting every citizen in its areas. The minister said he hopes investigations will end quickly and that all the appropriate measures are taken to protect our people.

'Urayqat spoke about the meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin on Tuesday. He said the meeting will be very important as the two leaders will discuss the transition period, elections, and redeployment.

In other developments, President Yasir 'Arafat thanked Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller for her important visit to the Gaza Strip today. 'Arafat said that the NA and Turkey will cooperate in many fields. He said this at the news conference he and the Turkish prime minister held.

From her part, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said that her government will do its best to assist the NA. She said: We support the Palestinian people, and we and President 'Arafat will succeed. Referring to the Palestinian people's tribulations during the years of occupation, the Turkish prime minister said that the world must support the NA.

The Turkish Government will give financial assistance to the NA and will participate in the housing field.

Further on Authority's Meeting

JN0511203694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat chaired the weekly meeting of the National Authority's [NA] Council of Ministers today. The conferees discussed several issues and topics listed on the agenda.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat briefed the council on the efforts his excellency and the members of the delegation accompanying him made during the economic summit in Casablanca last week.

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The NA Council of Ministers praised these efforts which realized the objectives set for the participation of the Palestinians in this conference; highlighting the Palestinian role and giving priority to the Palestinian cause on the political level, and supporting it on the economic level.

In statements to the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, following the meeting, Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency, said that His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat had noted the significance of the success of our delegation, which was supported by the Arab brothers, particularly by Egypt and Morocco which affirmed the importance of progress on the political level to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region, especially progress on the Palestinian track and linking it to economic progress in the region.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that His Excellency President 'Arafat also briefed the council on the meeting he had held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Morocco and the issues the Palestinian side will raise during the meeting that will be held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at Erez checkpoint on Tuesday.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat also briefed the council on the security situation in the NA areas in light of the terrorist operations Israel carried out in these areas. The council denounced these operations and decided to list this issue on the agenda of the higher liaison committee.

The council also praised the efforts of the Palestinian security forces to entrench security and stability and to ward off the attempts by those who seek to harm our people's unity and stability.

The council tasked Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, minister of transport and communications, to follow up on the measures dealing with the passage of vehicles and merchandise belonging to individuals with the competent parties and neighbor countries, particularly Egypt and Jordan.

The minister of communications briefed the council on his ministry's measures to change license plates and modify the computer program dealing with them. This will take place in accordance with a timetable that will be announced next week.

The council also discussed the question of granting the general secondary education certificate. The council agreed to issue Palestinian certificates to graduates from secondary schools in the NA areas, to join the Arab League agreement on the equivalence of certificates, and to sign the relevant agreement.

The council also decided to consider 15 November as a day of celebrations in schools and universities in the NA areas on the occasion of the declaration of independence. The council also decided to keep raising the issue of Jerusalem at all Arab, Islamic and international levels.

Turkish Mediation on Prisoners Sought

JN0511175094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving for Gaza to meet with His Excellency President 'Arafat, Turkish Prime Minister Mrs. Ciller met in Jerusalem today with a delegation representing the committee for solidarity with the Palestinian female and male prisoners.

In a statement to Voice of Palestine, the head of the solidarity committee said: We demand that Mrs. Ciller pressure Israel into releasing the Palestinian female and male prisoners from Israeli jails. She added that there will be no meaning to peace if all prisoners are not immediately and unconditionally released.

The guest prime minister, Mrs. Ciller, and the solidarity delegation said noon prayers at the al-Aqsa Mosque. She was briefed on the holy places in the city and the Israeli practices designed to Judaize the holy city. The guest voiced readiness to pressure Israel into releasing the Palestinian detainees. Earlier, the Turkish prime minister visited the holy places in Jerusalem.

Ciller Promises 'Arafat $50 Million

JN0611074294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], met with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller at his office in Gaza yesterday. President 'Arafat and Mrs. Ciller discussed Palestinian-Turkish relations, the peace process, the obstacles to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, and holding Palestinian legislative elections in the near future.

President Yasir 'Arafat said that the meeting with Ciller was positive and constructive, noting that Ankara has promised to give the PNA $50 million in assistance to finance Palestinian infrastructure projects and to build new houses in Gaza.

Ciller Visit to al-Aqsa Commended

JN0611082094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has praised the stand of Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and her visit to al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in the company of His Eminence Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri. Abu-Rudaynah said that the Turkish prime minister's stand is in harmony with international legitimacy which rejects Israel's annexation of the holy city.

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Al-Husayni on Ciller's Meetings

TA0611102594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Telephone Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of Fatah Supreme Committee in the West Bank, by correspondent Hayim Zissowitz on 6 November; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zissowitz] Mr. al-Husayni, who initiated Ciller's visit to Orient House?

[Al-Husayni] We initiated the visit, and Turkey's prime minister accepted our invitation. This is not the first time we have hosted prime ministers.

[Zissowitz] How would you define the visit; was it an official work visit, a diplomatic visit, or a courtesy call?

[Al-Husayni] Look, it was only a 15 minute visit. We broached the issues of both the peace process and Jerusalem, so it can be considered a work visit with political significance.

[Zissowitz] Western diplomats have visited Orient House at your invitation, while the Israeli Government has warned you that no official meetings are to be held in this building. Am I correct?

[Al-Husayni] You are mistaken. We do not conduct official Palestinian Authority meetings at Orient House, but meetings of the Palestinian delegation have always been held here, both before and after the Oslo Agreement.

[Zissowitz] A Palestinian security man told his Israeli counterpart that he has no authority at Orient House. Were you ever told during your talks with Israel that Orient House is off limits to Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] Look, when we have a guest here, inside our own house, we ourselves assume responsibility. Outside the house it is a different matter, but inside our house we discuss with our guests various political issues that we do not want an Israeli guest or security officer to hear. We are still negotiating with Israel and have so far not reached an agreement. Even if an agreement is reached, however, and a guest—say a Turkish guest—arrives, there is no point in having an Israeli security man in our building.

[Zissowitz] This is exactly what I wanted to ask you. The Jerusalem issue has still not been dealt with by the Palestinians and Israel. How do you expect Israel to react to your attempts to create facts on the grounds in Jerusalem when the issue has not even been raised yet?

[Al-Husayni] Look, we are simply continuing with the situation that existed before Oslo. We have not deviated from it—nor should the Israelis. Such meetings were held before Oslo. We will do nothing more, and the Israelis cannot force us to do anything less.

[Zissowitz] Will you continue to hold meetings in this building?

[Al-Husayni] Certainly. We will continue with such meetings until the negotiations result in an agreement that determines Orient House's status.

Further on al-Husayni Remarks

JN0611185894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of Fatah Supreme Committee in the West Bank, by Ahmad Birru, place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] What is the purpose of inviting the Turkish prime minister and what do visits by foreign figures to the Orient House mean?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, the Orient House is also the headquarters of the Palestinian team to the peace talks. In my capacity as the head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, I extended this invitation to [Turkish Prime Minister] Mrs. Ciller. This is something we have always followed since 1992. Orient House is the headquarters of the entire political negotiating process. Our first visitor was the Portuguese prime minister in October 1992.

[Birru] Do you consider this visit a Turkish recognition of the Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, according to UN resolutions, including Resolution 242, East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and is dealt with in a special way that is different from dealing with other parts of Jerusalem. This is what happened during U.S. President Clinton's visit. In the end, he canceled his visit to East Jerusalem because the Israelis insisted that he be accompanied by West Jerusalem's Mayor Olmert.

[Birru] Yitzhaq Rabin considered Ciller's visit a regrettable step. Shim'on Peres criticized this visit. Meanwhile, Jerusalem's Mayor Ehud Olmert said that Ciller has the right to visit Orient House and that al-Husayni has the right to receive her. However, Israel has to settle the Orient House issue. How do you explain this?

[Al-Husayni] The issue of Jerusalem is on the agenda to be negotiated as soon as possible and no later than the beginning of the third year; that is, one and a half years from now. So, to a great extent, I do not find this logic strange. However, yes, we have to sit with the Israelis not only to discuss the Orient House issue, but also to get into a discussion on the overall status of Jerusalem.

[Birru] Will you continue to invite foreign officials to visit Jerusalem and Orient House, in particular?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. As along as the peace process and the negotiations are ongoing, we will continue to play our role as a Palestinian team to the peace conference and to the MiddXe East talks. Only after these talks on Jerusalem are over. God willing, Jerusalem will be made the

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capital of the Palestinian state and only then, will we reconsider the location and status of Orient House.

Manifesto on Orient House Security Released

TA0611160594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian leaders based in Orient House have released a manifesto in the wake of the incident last night in which Israeli security personnel were denied entry into the building while accompanying the Turkish prime minister on her visit. According to the manifesto, they were not allowed into the building due to a lack of advanced coordination between the Israelis and the Palestinians because of the short notice. On the other hand, however, the Palestinians allowed the Israelis to check the building before Mrs. Ciller arrived.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Palestinian leaders fear that Israel might take measures against Orient House in the wake of last night's incident.

Al-Husayni Meets French Minister at Orient House

TA0711095794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another political encounter has taken place at Orient House in East Jerusalem. Simone Veil, the French minister of state for social affairs, health, and urban affairs, met with Faysal al-Husayni at Orient House today. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that at the meeting, al-Husayni complained about what he termed the siege on the building. He maintained that any harassment of the East Jerusalem house will hurt the peace process. He also complained that the closure on the territories is hurting the East Jerusalem economy.

The Orient House spokesman told our correspondent that Israeli police are keeping personnel from entering the building. He said Border Police jeeps are stationed near the building, blocking traffic. Our correspondent notes that the two Border Police jeeps left the place some time ago and that traffic is moving once again.

The Jerusalem District Police announced in reaction that the police reserve the right to set up roadblocks at the site in accordance with the law, as they would in any other part of the city.

'Arafat Adviser Criticizes Ibrahimi Mosque Measures

JN0711071494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the division of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has stated that this mosque is sacred for Muslims. He added: We do not accept it being harmed or divided. We consider this interference in Islamic affairs and a violation of the agreements and of UN Security Council Resolution 904 issued last May.

Abu-Rudaynah added that this division by the Israeli authorities will exacerbate tension and any measure against these holy places is a violation of all agreements.

Sha'th Comments on al-'Abid Assassination

JN0411132294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PA official, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With The Midday Events"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: No doubt, the Palestinian Authority [PA] is going through a critical stage in light of recent developments. What is your assessment of how things are going?

[Sha'th] We are facing many problems that we must overcome. In my opinion, the first of these problems is the need to expedite the implementation of the peace agreements and to spread the PA to the West Bank. This would do much to ease the state of siege the PA is facing in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. This is embodied in the Israeli authorities' imposition of the closure of these Palestinian areas, which creates a crisis in the economy and in the entire situation there.

I believe that next week's meeting—which was agreed on in Casablanca—between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin could provide an opportunity to expedite a solution to this issue. Of course, we are facing problems inside the Gaza Strip. The latest of these problems was the criminal assassination of Mr. Hani al-'Abid here, which created an a very tense atmosphere in the Gaza Strip. In light of this difficult situation, an important meeting was held yesterday. It was attended by all factions, which called for closing the ranks and cooperating to prevent any attempt to create confusion and disturbance in the Palestinian ranks. I believe that this crisis can be overcome through more cooperation and solidarity and through the continuation of the negotiations to keep the Palestinian-Israeli peace process going.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: The leaderships of the Islamic Jihad Movement and Hamas Movement announced they will continue their attacks on Israel from their places of residence in the self-rule area. These two movements, once again, have embarrassed the PA. How will the PA deal with this issue?

[Sha'th] The PA is responsible for security in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. We fully shoulder this responsibility and we will not allow any attempt to attack anyone, whether a Palestinian or an Israeli, inside the self-rule area. Israel should be responsible for security outside these areas. The Israeli security authorities should fully shoulder this responsibility. However, as I said, it is not

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only an issue of security. It is basically an issue of politics. When the Palestinian citizen and his Israeli counterpart feel that there is a real continuation of the peace process and that peace will result in gains for everyone, then you will not find any acts of violence anywhere.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Hamas leaders called on the PA not to allow Jews to enter the Gaza Strip. What is your comment on this?

[Sha'th] I do not think we discriminate between Jews and others when it comes to entering the Gaza Strip. I also do not think that in light of the peace process, we will prevent the Jews from entering the Gaza Strip. Moreover, we strongly object to preventing Palestinians from entering Israel. I do not think that this issue has been proposed at all. The issue proposed is a security issue. How can we be careful so that an operation like the one against Hani al-'Abid would not be repeated?

[Mu'addi] PA member Dr. Nabil Sha'th. Thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Broadcast Says Israeli 'Terrorism' Not 'Picnic'

JN0511183994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1642 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No doubt, the treacherous crime, in which the Palestinian Arab struggler Hani al-'Abid was martyred in Khan Yunus on Wednesday, was a terrorist Israeli crime whose perpetrators admitted it in advance.

As everyone knows, confession is the best evidence. In other words, there is no need to search for evidence condemning the Israeli terrorism, whether it is admitted by the persons committing such terrorism or not. This is particularly true when these persons admit committing terrorism in a boastful and joyful manner. These persons caused a great clamor when they shot dead, with their own bullets, their own soldier Nakhshon Wachsman in Bir Nabala near Ramallah.

Hence, those who are skillfully pursuing Israeli terrorism are boasting about this terrorism. A few days ago, they decided to liquidate the Palestinian Arab resistance men not only in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories but anywhere in the world . By this announcement, they have actually admitted in advance that they will commit any crime against the Palestinian Arab strugglers. In the eyes of all honorable people, these strugglers are militant heroes and patriotic freedom fighters even if Israel keeps claiming that they are terrorists.

We are not now concerned with the opinion of terrorist Israel about our strugglers. In fact, this opinion does not concern us at all. What concerns us now is the fact that Israel did not only admit and boast about its terrorism but it also rejoiced in it. Yitzhaq Rabin, the head of their government, said with one hand he shakes and with the other hand he kills.

Rabin and others in Israel can prattle as they please. They, however, should know that they always reap what they mistakenly imagine to be a picnic. Things [for the Israelis] have thus far been confined to the illusion of having a military picnic. In other words, Israel used to imagine that every aggression launched on the Arabs was only a military picnic. However, and from the early hours of such aggressions, Israel discovered that they inflicted a disaster on it.

Thus, Israel, which has always supposed, or rather imagined, that its military aggressions were mere military picnics, now imagines that its terrorist crimes are also a terrorist picnic, so to speak. Why can't this expression be used as long as Yitzhaq Rabin joyfully says that he shakes with one hand and kills with the other?

We have seen how Israel has frequently paid a dear price for its aggression and invasion which, it imagined, was a military picnic. It is definite that a similar expensive bill is awaiting Israel if it persists in the illusion that its terrorism is also a picnic. The Palestinian Arab people have frequently proved to the Israeli terrorists that their terrorism is not a picnic. The Israeli terrorists should have learned a lesson from this proof.

Egypt To Open Office in Gaza, Consulate in Jericho

NC0511215994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gala, 5 Nov (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, stated that Egypt has decided to open a representative office in Gaza and a consulate in Jericho.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today decided to appoint al-Qidrah representative of the Palestinian National Authority in Cairo, in addition to his post as Palestinian ambassador and Fatah representative in Cairo. Al-Qidrah arrived in Gaza the day before yesterday on a few days' visit.

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Algeria

Presidency Spokesman on Presidential Elections

LD0511120094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1940 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Interview with Presidency Spokesman Mihoub Mihoubi by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Ladies and gentlemen, may God's peace and mercy be upon you. We welcome you in this special program, after the speech of the head of state, which he delivered on the 40th anniversary of the start of the blessed liberation revolution. In this program, we will dwell upon some points of the speech which need some clarification. We meet in this program Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, the official spokesman of the Presidency of State. Welcome to you.

[Mihoubi] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, in the speech of the head of state, which was considered by many as surprising in its contents and some of its conclusions, he announced that presidential elections will be held. Are there sufficient guarantees and the necessary trust for holding elections before 1995?

[Mihoubi] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate and may God's peace and prayers be upon the most honorable messenger, ladies and gentlemen. [passage omitted]

With regard to your question on the presidential elections—which were announced by his excellency the head of state in his speech to the nation on the 40th anniversary of November revolution—and the state's ability to prepare these elections, I would like first of all to go back to what was previously announced since the beginning of the transitional period and even before that with regard to his excellency the head of state when he was minister of national defense.

As you know, this transitional period is dictated by the difficult circumstances through which the nation is passing. This transitional period is defined in its framework and aims and we find this in what has been called the platform of the national consensus. Among the aims of the transitional period, there is the country's return to its normal state, the revival of its national economy, and the return to the democratic process on clear, sound, and strong foundations.

Naturally, when we started the transitional period, the presidency of state began a national dialogue for giving opportunities to all the political potentialities in the country to participate in this national effort aiming, as I said, at returning to the democratic process.

We all know the fate of the national dialogue. When the need became certain for the state to carry out its duties in the absence of the political community, with which we held dialogue since the start of the transitional period and particularly in the last few months, the head of state decided to announce the holding of presidential elections. Obviously this is an important measure to be taken.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, when I posed the question on the necessary guarantees and trust for holding presidential election, I did it bearing in mind that the transitional period was defined as three years, as it is known in the platform for national consensus. Would the guarantees and trust be available with the holding of these elections one year before the end of the transitional period?

[Mihoubi] I did say that this is an important measure that concerns all the members of Algerian society and does, as a consequence, require some self-confidence and some ability to control the situation to start it.

When his excellency the head of state made that decision, I was fully convinced he had all the elements of that decision, which he previously stressed on many occasions and even within the framework of the national dialogue with the various parties. This was announced in all detail because, as head of state and minister of national defense, he is bound by all his decisions even if these decisions are made with the various members of the political society in this country.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, when you talked a few moments ago about the dialogue, there are now some analysis and comments which might agree that the dialogue, which the head of state called, has failed and the announcement of presidential elections has put an end to the dialogue process. What is your opinion?

[Mihoubi] I leave the responsibility for such a statement to those who claim this dialogue has failed. I will only remind all the citizens that the national dialogue is a method of action for dealing with our national political issues, out of conviction and on the basis of an analysis of the nature of the crisis through which the country is passing and an analysis of the means to put an end to it. The head of state has stressed on many occasions that this dialogue was a dialogue, first of all, with the groups of this national society, who are first and foremost concerned by the problems of the country, and also that it is not possible to exclude any party in the national dialogue. Consequently, all of us are concerned by this dialogue.

This dialogue is a national dialogue that deals with national matters and it is in its nature that it must be a continuous dialogue regardless of the difficulties and the obstacles and the stances of some. It is in fact a national dialogue that must exist and it is natural that it exists in any civilized society, in any democratic society. It is impossible, therefore, to manage the affairs of the country by isolating a group of society. This is our view of the national dialogue. Consequently, we made efforts and, as I said, we wanted and hoped that all political

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classes which abide by legitimacy would participate in making the national dialogue successful and achieving its aims.

This is our view of dialogue; however, there must be some reminding because naturally this dialogue is not a chaotic dialogue, but is a dialogue that takes place within the framework of constitutional legality and thus a framework and aims were set for it. One must abide by these, so we ensure the stability of the country and the interests of this nation.

[Correspondent] That means that there will be other rounds of dialogue before holding the presidential elections?

[Mihoubi] Concerning the previous stage of national dialogue, the presidency in a clear statement announced results of efforts by parties that did not participate in the national conference for national conciliation. The matter now concerns every citizen in this country. [passage omitted]

We believe that the decisive word, as we are forever being reminded in various addresses by the head of state, belongs to the people. They are the ones who hold the final decision. Accordingly, concerning the apparatus—by that I mean the political associations or parties—we have clarified efforts we made with them and it is up to the people to decide. It is they who hold the decision and fate of this country.

[Correspondent] The president called on political parties to hold direct talks with the people. There are some parties that see there is some sort of restriction on political activity, so how do you conceive the possibility of holding direct dialogue with the people in the light of these considerations?

[Mihoubi] The truth is that he who has that sort of opinion cannot be anything but biased. Previously, I personally read in some party newspapers that there was not freedom of expression and yet they expressed themselves in the papers.

I want to stress and clarify to all our people that the president personally issued instructions in August that were published in various national newspapers and on the radio and television. He stressed his personal concern that democratic liberties, including political activities and freedom of the media, were practiced. I believe all citizens read these instructions, issued by the presidency and published by the media.

Furthermore, it might be said these were instructions that have not been put into practice. I would like to remind everybody that the national dialogue was held in complete openness and I believe you all are witnesses to the fact that all the political parties have been given access to all chances and channels. I believe that in this very place there has been totally free dispositions by officials in various legal parties. To say the atmosphere does not allow political rights and the freedom of expression that is needed to enter presidential elections is, in my opinion, a groundless point of view that sheds some doubts or it is rather a biased point of view. Political rights and liberties are guaranteed in this country; this has been undertaken by the head of state and these are practiced within the framework of constitutional legitimacy and the law. The state will do all it can to ensure the law is respected and these democratic liberties are practiced in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

[Correspondent] Regarding the way political parties have dealt with the course of dialogue, we know they have taken different positions. What is your analysis of the outcome of the dialogue and how do you think they will deal with dialogue in the future?

[Mihoubi] I am not here to represent the parties. They have all the possibilities and the ability to express their points of view freely in this country. Regarding my assessment of the course of the dialogue, I believe the statement issued by the presidency of state following the last session of dialogue held with the various parties invited to it was clear and unambiguous. We told exactly how things happened during the sessions of dialogue and I believe there was no comment on that statement.

Therefore, it is not my responsibility to assess the position of these parties. In fact, I leave it to the people to do it themselves as things are now done in complete openness.

Regarding the second part of your question regarding our relation with the parties, we believe we live in a society that wants to restore the political process on firm grounds; therefore, all legal parties that abide by the Constitution and this country's laws are indeed present in the national political arena and it is the state's right to talk to them whenever it wants to do so. These parties also have the right to talk to the state whenever they desire it. I believe this is a matter that has been clearly explained once and for all. There is a political community in the country and when everything is being done within the limits of the law and legitimacy, the matter for us is natural and does not raise any question that will shed doubts on the positions of any party.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi, it is known that the head of state, in his latest speech and for the first time, placed on those who used to be in power the responsibility for the current situation. In your opinion, what are the reasons and justifications that led to such a judgement?

[Mihoubi] The matter is not new as a matter of fact. You only have to go back to statements made by the head of state and also when he—the head of state—was minister of national defense. You may recall in December 1993 there was a published speech made by the then minister of national defense; the nation was acquainted with it. There was also a meeting between him—as minister of defense—and the Algerian News Agency and this subject

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was tackled with total clarity and in full detail. He then referred back to this subject on 7 February 1994 when he was installed as head of state. He also dealt with this subject on several occasions, the latest of which was the inauguration of the judicial year, and also in his speech to the nation on occasion of the 40th anniversary of our glorious revolution. The matter is therefore not new.

The strange thing is that when we talk to journalists in this country, it appears as if they are discovering something new. It is a fact that if we follow up these matters in detail and faithfully and truthfully, I believe the surprises decrease.

There is a political line that this state is following during this critical transitional stage, and this political line was announced quite clearly and in detail on every occasion. There is therefore no ambiguity about it. Practices have been evaluated; they are known. When we ask ourselves about the resultant situation in the country, it is inevitable we should go back to the reasons for this crisis. When the body is suffering from an illness, it is inevitable that we should diagnose the illness, investigate it. These illnesses are known...

[Correspondent, interrupting] For the first time, the period of time has been defined.

[Mihoubi] As a matter of fact, the head of state's speech was clear; he spoke about the past decade. As I said, it is not new.

There are several reasons for this crisis, including political, economic, and social reasons, as well as reasons relating to behavior—the behavior within the administration and the state organs and the deviations and exploitation of authority we witnessed, as well as the fact that those responsible were not brought to book. I believe the matter is quite clear to all citizens who know all this. Add to this the fact that laws were not respected. When we look to see and study in detail how the law governing the parties—this is an example only—was prepared in contrast to what the Constitution stipulates, we will first of all observe there is a violation of the Constitution, as the door was thrown open for the exploitation of sacred values and our religion and our identity for political practices. These may be mistakes for which history will hold us responsible.

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that you have mentioned only the law relating to the political societies, is it to be expected that some laws, such as the political societies law and the electoral law, will be reconsidered?

[Mihoubi] This is a subject that I believe has been mentioned in the platform of the national dialogue. You may recall the platform of the national dialogue stipulates the revision of some laws, including the parties law, as it is not possible to comprehend that the door should remain open for some practices which lead the country to deviation and also which violate the provisions of the Constitution. This is to be found in the platform of national dialogue and I believe it is the responsibility of the state to carry out this work before we go into election—any type of election.

[Correspondent] We now come to the subject of the break [with the past], which was mentioned in the speech by the head of state. The word—break—is being reiterated in political speeches, in general, to the point that national public opinion is no longer convinced of the fidelity to the concept of this break. What is new in the speech of the head of state when he talks about—the break?

[Mihoubi] I believe it is the right of the people to follow-up and observe; this is among the first reasons for a break. When you say that the people do not trust, it is their right not to trust an administration that made several promises, but did not deliver.

With regard to the subject which is preoccupying us—the break as we understand it and as defined by the head of state within the framework of the transitional period—I believe the break means the restoration of the democratic track to its true ground and correct path. When we restore democracy to its correct path, we will have covered a long distance within the break as the people—for the first time in history—will be able and with total freedom to determine its destiny and appoint its leaders with total freedom and openness. This is the break.

It is also possible to be a break when we deal with the economic reforms the country is witnessing now. You know the dialogue on economic reforms started many years ago, but regrettably the practices perhaps did not take their correct course and perhaps were exploited by some. What we notice now, however, is that we have entered a stage that differs completely from the previous periods, as far as the organization and the management of our national economy are concerned.

What is a cause for satisfaction and what encourages the leadership of this country is that, despite the difficulty of this stage and the difficulty of the economic reforms, all of you notice they are accepted by the people who deal with them with patience, wisdom, and self-restraint, as I said, despite all the difficulties from which they are suffering during this stage, which we hope will be a short one. I am convinced that, God willing, with the efforts of all, it will be a short period, because it is in fact a stage that is on the right path.

In my opinion, this is an important and radical break. Among the breaks we can mention is the issue of the life of the state's institutions, the appointment of state officials. I do not remember that an official was made accountable for his behavior or for his carrying out of the responsibility to which he was appointed. Today, and tomorrow God willing, everybody will be made accountable for the responsibility with which he was entrusted. This is a promise of the head of state. He talked about this very clearly. Preparations have been made for it. As

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he announced in his penultimate speech, the accountability council will be revived to follow-up state officials and make them accountable and not to settle accounts, as some might believe.

I believe this is also an important break and the people will follow it up and will be informed in all openness and clarity.

Among the breaks also, we endeavor to build the state of law. When I say the state of law, all the people know that in this country, sometimes and regrettably, laws are laid down, but they remain in drawers without implementation. That matter has gone forever. Laws will be issued and implemented in the time specified for them without delay, slackness, and without manipulating them. This is also a break with the past.

A break with the past must be evident in the citizen's behavior. It is the citizen's right to blame the government, to make it accountable for its actions, and to follow up on its progress; but at the same time, he must bear his own responsibility. That break with the past must include a break with the mentality, the dependence on others and the state, and should open the way for initiatives. That is now clear to all. I believe that is the break the government is trying to achieve.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mihoubi, what can you say about when the president used the term our children who were made to commit wrongdoings by criminals. What does that mean to you?

[Mihoubi] I only remind you of when the president dwelt on that issue, he insisted on repeating it in his speech due to its importance. You know that the majority of our people, about 70 percent, are under the age of 20. You also know the importance and interest we give to youth affairs. The life force of this country is its youth. A country without any youth is a country that will collapse and no longer exist. For some people following the matter this is an issue that threatens some societies.

We believe young people are the blood vein of this nation and accordingly one must care for them, back them, encourage them, and set them on the right path.

Unfortunately, what has happened—and what we discussed in terms of those who slid onto the wrong path—has made a segment of our youth fall into wrong ways—ideological, behavioral, and anti-social ways. They became prone to all manipulations and maneuvers—political and others.

We may say youth has lost its way. Therefore, it is the duty of the state—and the head of state is concerned about this—to open the door and the bosom of this nation for its sons, who in most cases have not come of age, and regrettably, have slid into malpractices for several reasons, so they come back to their senses and critically examine themselves, and so they can return to their people, because their place—as the head of state said—is within this nation and nowhere else. They have one country which is Algeria. It is inevitable, as I said, that they should return to their senses and atone for their sins and integrate anew within this society which, by virtue of its nature, is a merciful society. This is because we are an Islamic nation and Islam is the religion of mercy. Therefore, I believe we should not exclude an important faction from this society. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We also noticed in his latest speech, that the head of state did not talk about the issue of the Berber language and the demand of the Berber Cultural Movement. Why?

[Mihoubi] Allow me to say this is a strange question, because it insinuates several things. You know that the Tamazight [Berber] language is a part of this nations's heritage and it is not acceptable for anyone to use this issue whatever the reason. It is a national heritage and I think that talking about this issue is a futile argument that does not serve the Berber language or this nation regarding its unity and integrity.

There is a legitimate demand that has been submitted. A number of members of the government have talked on this issue and the head of state himself talked about it. He clearly gave the state's opinion on this issue; he also formed a national committee which he personally chairs in order to study this issue rationally and carefully and within defined limits. The committee is to present the outcome of its work in December. To say that the head of state did not talk about this issue—that means something, it insinuates something. What is it? Frankly, let me talk to our brothers the citizens, what does this insinuate? Does it mean there are several states within this country? I do not think this a serious point of view. When the head of state speaks, he does it in the name of the state. I do not think that adding to what the head of state says is of benefit to this issue or opens other prospects to it.

There remains another explanation of this point of view: Are these political one-upmanships? Is it a political exploitation of this issue? Unfortunately if this is the case, it is again a mistaken point of view, because it is not allowed under any circumstances or reasons to use this issue for political ends. This is a national issue in which we take pride and which we preserve; it is our heritage and identity and I do not think anybody will be allowed to practice one-upmanship on this issue.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mihoubi, some analyses say the government's handling of this issue is technical and what is needed is a political treatment. What is your opinion?

[Mihoubi] The truth is this also falls within the framework of error and confusion on how to deal with such matters. Do you have another view in dealing with issues—be they linguistic, economic, or social? Are you against science, against dealing with issues with methodology? I do not believe any sane person would thrust himself into such a maze. All problems confronting this

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nation require rational, scientific, and logical treatments which put the interest of the country above all considerations.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, we thank you for following this session. [passage omitted]

Sahraoui: The ISA Controls 'Half the Country'

MM0411142094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Sahraoui: No Dialogue With Present Regime in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Cheik Abdelbaki Sahraoui, a founding member of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has said that there is no room for dialogue with the current regime in Algeria, because dialogue "is conducted with those seeking dialogue." As for Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission, he tried to leave the door ajar for dialogue with the regime of President Liamine Zeroual, even though the latter blamed the FIS for the failure of the Algerian dialogue. Haddam said, "We will not close the door to serious negotiations."

Cheik Sahraoui, a FIS shura council member currently living in Paris, told AL-HAYAH that "99 percent of the means to make the dialogue a success are in the Algerian regime's hands," thus denying the FIS' responsibility for the dialogue's failure. He added that the authorities "decided to continue the destruction" despite its possession of the elements of a solution.

He said that a solution "is easy but far off." He pointed out that the crisis can be settled if the authorities release "all political prisoners, including FIS leaders, and allow the shura council to convene so that we can exchange views over the nation's destiny and ways of ending the crisis."

He asked: What have Algerian authorities offered since the crisis began? He added: "Algerian governments have offered nothing. Five governments have been formed over the past few years. Not a single one of them implemented a program useful to the country and the people."

He stressed that the FIS is not responsible for the dialogue's failure. President Liamine Zeroual, he said, should have said that he "could not achieve a solution," instead of laying the blame on the FIS and its leaders. He added: "He should have said that behind me [Zeroual] is a group, not groups, rejecting a peaceful solution" to the crisis.

Asked about the steps taken by the authorities to open up to the FIS, like releasing some of its leaders, he said that those released had served most of the period they were supposed to serve in prison. They were released only a few months before the original date of their release. He cast doubt on the intention behind their release. He accused the authorities of "spying on them" in order to get to the Front's underground leaderships.

On the assassination of foreigners, teachers, journalists, and intellectuals in Algeria and the armed groups' claiming responsibility for these assassinations, Sahraoui said that the FIS has nothing to do with any killing of that kind. He pointed out that the Islamic Salvation Army "dissociated" itself from these operations, stressing that its quarrel is with the authorities, not foreigners.

He emphasized that the Islamic Salvation Army, the FIS' military arm, "is currently in control of more than half of the country. It has an almost complete presence in the mountains and the countryside." He noted that cities are the main center for the Armed Islamic Group's activities, in contrast with the Salvation Army, which is active in the mountains.

Asked about the prospects for a solution in these conditions, he said: "There can be no solution or dialogue as long as people like that are in power. We enter a dialogue with those who seek dialogue, not those who reject dialogue.

"They say that the ball is now in the FIS' court. But can FIS leaders meet with the mujahidin safely in the mountains? Who can guarantee their safety? The ball is in the authorities' court." He went on: "The military must return to their barracks and not interfere in politics."

Asked whether the FIS would agree to coexist with some military leaders in the future, he said: "We should ask the people whether they can forgive. We should ask the widows and orphans. I am not after power. All I want is for Algeria to be ruled by divine, religious law." [passage omitted]

Relocation of FIS Leaders Denied

MM0411164694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Algerian Sources Expect Trial of Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—Algerian sources close to the government have denied that [Islamic] Salvation [Front] FIS leaders Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj have been moved from the Djenane villa to a secret location as claimed by an Algerian paper the day before yesterday. They stressed that Madani and Belhadj are still at the presidential villa but they refused to confirm or deny claims by other FIS officials that visits to the two leaders are no longer allowed and that telephone communication has been cut off. Meanwhile, there have been widespread rumors in circles close to the government that Madani and Belhadj might again be brought to trial on the charge of supporting and inciting violence on the basis of Ali Belhadj's two messages which were intercepted after Abou Abdallah Ahmed, the former leader of

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the Armed Group [GIA], was killed. But there has been no official confirmation of that. [passage omitted]

Former Oppositionist Calls Violence 'Un-Islamic'

LD0611120494

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1956 GMT on 6 November broadcasts a 40-minute recording of confessions by Chaouch Abdelhai, a religious education teacher and former member of the armed Islamist opposition.

Abdelhai starts by giving his name, place of birth, and education. He then talks about how he got in touch with members of an armed group, how he was implicated in smuggling arms, and how he obtained money and purchased firearms for the group. He says that weapons and daggers were brought from Tunisia, and he expresses his regret and repentance. At this stage, he breaks into tears.

Chaouch names numerous individuals who, he says, were implicated in forming Shiite armed groups which carried out acts that could not be considered Islamic. He accuses members of the armed groups of ignorance and short sightedness, and describes their acts as being "criminal." He says that the acts of the Islamic groups were un-Islamic and supports his argument by verses from the Koran and citations from the Prophetic tradition. He goes on to say that the fatwas of Ali Belhadj, one of the imprisoned Islamic Salvation Front leaders, resemble those of the Tatars.

He invites the members of the armed groups to rethink their positions, and talks about instances of assassinating journalists, chemists, religious figures, etc. which, he says, were un-Islamic. He also accuses members of the armed groups of stealing money, sodomy, abducting women, and violating people's honor. He claims that he appeared on television voluntarily to demonstrate that members of the Islamic armed groups are neither Muslims nor true to what they advocate.

He appeals to the Algerian people to stand up and defend their rights, religion and honor. He singles out Ali Belhadj for particular criticism, and invites him to admit his errors and apologize to the Algerian people.

French Man Found 'Murdered' in Bouira

NC0511171494 Paris AFP in English 1551 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 5 (AFP)—A 26-year-old Frenchman was found Saturday [5 November] murdered in Bouira, 100 kilometres (62 miles) southeast of Algiers, a reliable source said.

The victim, whose full identity was not immediately available, came from Paris and was traveling by car to Batna, in eastern Algeria, the source said. [France-2 Television Network on 5 November identified the victim as 27-year-old Jean-Francois Marquet.] He was the 69th foreigner and 21st French national killed in Algeria in fundamentalist strife over the past 13 months.

Armed Islamic radicals who have been waging a campaign of insurgency against the secular government since it annulled elections in January 1992 the subsequently outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. [sentence as received]

An attempt at reconciliation between the FIS and the government broke down last month.

Security Services Announce 'Terrorists' Killed

8 Killed in Eucalyptus, Larbaa

LD0511195894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The security services said today that its forces killed eight terrorists in the Eucalyptus quarter and Larbaa yesterday. The security forces were able to recover automatic pistols, a radio receiver, subversive leaflets, and four blank passports. [passage omitted]

The security services said also today that the terrorist who was killed in Oran Province last Thursday has been identified. He is Omar Bellatreche, alias Abou Boudjenna, 28 years old. According to the subversive leaflets of the armed Islamic groups, he is the commander of the armed groups of Oran region. A pistol was recovered and subversive documents were found and these enabled [security forces] to kill nine terrorists in the Oran region.

46 'Terrorists' Said 'Eliminated'

LD0511172394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An announcement by the security services today stated that the security forces yesterday eliminated 20 terrorists in the region of Hamza in the province of Jijel and recovered a number of weapons.

Another announcement by the security services said that the security forces yesterday eliminated nine terrorists in Algiers and recovered a number of arms.

In Sidi Bel Abbes province, an announcement by the security services today said that the security forces eliminated 17 terrorists on Wednesday.

Perpetrator of Bomb Attack Killed

LD0511103294 Paris LCI Television in French 1000 GMT 5 Nov 94

The Algerian daily EL WATAN revealed this morning that the main person responsible for the Mostaganem attack and 33 Islamists have been killed this week during an operation by the security forces. The person behind the attack is reported to be a 40-year old doctor.

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I remind you that four children were killed and 18 others were injured on 1 November by a bomb explosion in a cemetery. The responsibility for the attack has still not been claimed but the authorities accuse an armed group.

Government: Amnesty Report 'Unacceptable'

NC0611154194 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 6 (AFP)—The latest Amnesty International report on human rights abuse in Algeria is "unacceptable," government spokesman Ahmed Attaf said Sunday [6 November].

"Even though this report is still being studied by the government, we consider unacceptable the fact that it places at the same level actions taken by terrorists and state measures to protect civilians," the official Algerian news agency APS quoted Attaf as saying.

The London-based organization stated on October 25 that government forces and Moslem extremists in Algeria "had savagely killed thousands of civilians trapped in a cycle of violence."

Amnesty appealed to the government to "stop the carnage and the torture perpetrated by security forces" and pleaded with the banned Islamic Salvation Front to stop killing civilians.

Clashes between Moslem extremists and government troops in Algeria left 10,000 people dead between February 1992 and December 1993, according to an official toll.

The civilian victims targeted by the extremists include journalists, teachers, politicians and 69 foreigners.

The extremists have waged a campaign of violence against the secular government since January 1992 when the military intervened to cancel the second round of elections the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

Government Approves 1995 Finance Bill

LD0511203994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers convened today under the chairmanship of State President Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers studied and endorsed the 1995 Finance Bill, including the state budget for next year, which will be referred to the Transitional National Council. The council also studied the measures approved in the 1995 Finance Bill which determine the political, economic, and financial objectives of the government's policy during the transitional period which mainly aims at implementing the plan for complete economic stability in the fiscal area, reducing the value added tax from four to three [percent], consolidating activities which encourage social and economic development in the greater southern provinces, approving a 50 percent income tax, reducing value added tax for handicraft industries and tourism sectors, amending some excise duties within the framework of promoting and protecting national products, and amending excise and taxation measures with a view to achieving flexibility, revitalizing and supporting social security for the handicapped, the disabled of the national liberation war and other eligible people. [passage omitted]

The 1995 Finance Bill also seeks to improve national balance of payments. The revenue is estimated at 586.5 billion dinars which is expected to rise by 24.6 percent in 1995, compared to the 1994 forecast. Expenditure is estimated at 734.9 billion dinars which is expected to rise by 21.4 percent after setting aside a substantial sum to boost the state budget, forming a social network and subsidizing widely consumed goods. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Reportage on Syrian Foriegn Minister al-Shar's Visit

Al-Shar' Due in Cairo 7 Nov

NC0611205494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will arrive in Cairo tomorrow for a one-day visit.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated the visit is within the framework of Egyptian-Syrian consultations on developments in the Arab situation and the ongoing efforts to promote the Middle East peace process. President Husni Mubarak is expected to receive al-Shar' tomorrow.

Mubarak Receives al-Shar'

NC0711110094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Syrian Ambassador to Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish attended the meeting.

Al-Shar' arrived in Cairo earlier today. He was received at the airport by 'Amr Musa.

Mubarak Receives al-Asad Message

NC0711131094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad when he received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today.

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Following the meeting, al-Shar' stated that the message deals with the Arab situation and the peace process and the stage it has reached.

Commenting on reports that the Syrian-Israeli talks will resume this month, al-Shar' said: There is no official date. But we expect U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to arrive in the region before the end of the month to hold talks in Damascus and other regional states. He might come out with something after which the Syrian-Israeli talks could resume in Washington.

The Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers were asked to comment on recent remarks by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz that Iraq is no longer at war with Israel. Al-Shar' said: This is up to the Iraqi officials. He added: It does not represent pressure on Syria at the negotiations, because Syria insists on its position and its just demands to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the land-for-peace principle.

Al-Shar' said that this Syrian position gains Arab and international support, particularly by the cosponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia.

Answering the same question, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: We believe Iraq must change its position on Kuwait too. It is surprising that Iraq should change its position on Israel before it changes its position on Kuwait.

As al-Shar' said, Musa added, this is Iraq's business.

Musa, al-Shar' Hold Talks

NC0711141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a session of talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at a working lunch hosted by Musa for the Syrian foreign minister and his delegation before the Syrian minister leaves Cairo.

Musa Criticizes Israel's Nuclear Policy

NC0411222294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has criticized Israel's nuclear policy. He said that this policy is causing regional concern and must be confronted. He warned that for stability to be established in the Middle East, all countries in the region must be free of mass-destruction weapons.

'Amr Musa delivered a speech this evening at a seminar held by the Center for Strategic and Political Studies of AL-AHRAM newspaper on the silver jubilee of the establishment of the Center. The paper will publish this seminar in its issue for tomorrow, Saturday.

The minister expressed regrets over the current contradictions in the Arab world where, while the gap in the Arab-Israeli conflict is decreasing, the ga' in inter-Arab conflicts is increasing.

He said that Egypt is opposed to all those who claim that the role of the Arab League is over. He affirmed that it will continue to be a home for all the Arabs.

Turkey's Ciller Arrives on 2-Day Visit

NC0611075594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller arrived here this evening on an official two-day visit to Egypt. She was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation.

Ciller said she was happy to be visiting Egypt, a visit that will give her a chance to discuss several topics with Egyptian officials, including developments in the Middle East peace process, especially as Egypt makes a considerable contribution to the peace process, she added. Ciller added: We try to make Egypt and Turkey play a bigger role in the peace process, particularly following the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty. She emphasized the importance of achieving peace in this part of the world. She added that her talks will also examine ways to consolidate economic cooperation between Egypt and Turkey. Aspects of this cooperation were discussed during Prime Minister Sidqi's official visit to Turkey in May, she added.

Dr. Sidqi welcomed Ciller to Egypt, adding that the Turkish prime minister was eager to visit to reciprocate his own visit to Turkey. He told reporters that cooperation between Egypt and Turkey is progressing daily, adding that the two countries seek to take the volume of trade between them to 1 billion dollars in the next four years. Dr. Sidqi noted that joint projects exist and that there are high hopes of setting up more projects in various fields, particularly in the field of oil and gas. He said he hoped the Turkish side would make joint investment in this sector.

Dr. Sidqi pointed out that Egypt and Turkey signed an agreement for technical cooperation during his trip to Turkey and a higher joint committee between the two countries has been set up under this agreement. He added: During Ciller's visit, we will agree on more technical projects, which we hope will further strengthen our relations.

Asked about the Casablanca summit, Dr. Sidqi said it had primarily sought to lay the groundwork for regional cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa. The main purpose of the conference was to promote economic cooperation and in that regard the conference was successful, to a great extent. He stressed that Ciller's visit

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to Egypt will help to promote cooperation between Egypt and Turkey and the region's states.

Sidqi, Ciller Make Statements

NC0611112094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's visit to Egypt marks a new bond in bilateral relations.

In a statement to the Egyptian and international media today, after President Husni Mubarak met Ciller, a meeting attended by Dr. Sidqi, Sidqi said that talks during the meeting addressed many topics, foremost of which was the peace process in the Middle East and various countries' stances on this issue.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi added that the talks also addressed bilateral relations in the economic, political, and other sectors, as well as the means to develop and strengthen such relations. [passage omitted]

Turkish Prime Minister Ciller expressed her joy at visiting Egypt at the invitation of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. He said bilateral relations are strong.

Ciller described President Mubarak as a man who enjoys leadership and charisma in Egypt and throughout the entire region. She said she held prolonged talks with him.

She noted that the two countries' viewpoints on issues in the Middle East are identical, particularly with regard to the peace process. She affirmed that Palestine has priority and solutions should be found for it.

She added that rebuilding Gaza and the West Bank also have priority, to stabilize the atmosphere of peace in the region. She pointed out that the new Middle East is the dream for which we should be working very seriously, through political and economic cooperation to realize peace and stability in the Middle East.

Ciller affirmed in her statement the need to strengthen cooperation between Egypt and Turkey to make the required progress in the Middle East. She said: We also feel how important it is to confront terrorism and extremism in the region and are aware of the need to direct this message everywhere, because we have common values and principles.

The Turkish prime minister said that progress can be made during these talks, adding to the progress made during Dr. Sidqi's recent visit to Turkey.

Ciller expressed her condolences over the victims of rain and flooding in Upper Egypt and in the village of Durunkah in Asyut. She said: We will discuss how Turkey can contribute toward confronting this natural catastrophe.

At the end of her statement she said that during her visit she had discussed issues dealing with petrol and natural gas and the possibility of exchanging these products as well as the possibility of setting up projects in the Middle East.

Asked about the amount of trade between Egypt and Turkey, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said it amounts to $350 million a year between the two countries.

Regarding the oil sector, he said, there is a joint committee working to increase bilateral cooperation in this field. He pointed out that the two sides prefer joint committees in all fields, such as industrialization, mining, natural gas, export, and others.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi affirmed that Egypt hopes to increase trade with Turkey to reach $1 billion annually during the next five years.

More on Sadqi, Ciller Talks

NC0611144394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian-Turkish talks led by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller were held at the Prime Ministry this morning.

Sidqi and Ciller held a closed meeting before joining members of the two delegations. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sidqi said after the talks, which lasted for about two hours, that he will meet again with Mrs. Ciller Monday morning to complete the discussions.

He said today's talks showed that the two countries have identical views on the international situation in general and the Middle East and the peace process in particular. They both agree on the need to support peace efforts and Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to avoid any obstacles or setbacks, he said.

Sidqi added that Egypt and Turkey also saw a need to advance the talks on both the Israeli-Syrian and the Israeli-Lebanese negotiating tracks so that the two countries' legitimate demands for restoring their Israeli-occupied territories will be met.

The prime minister said the talks with Mrs. Ciller also dealt with economic developments in the Middle East in light of the results of the Casablanca conference, in which botn Egypt and Turkey participated.

He pointed out that viewpoints were close in this regard, although the two countries are moving at different paces toward integration with the so-called Middle East market.

Dr. Sidqi said that in the area of bilateral relations, the talks dealt with the need to complete the procedure for ratifying the agreements reached between the two countries in the first meeting of the joint committee in September.

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He said the Council of Ministers had approved the agreements, which include establishing the higher Egyptian-Turkish committee; supporting, encouraging, and protecting investment; and preventing double taxation.

Dr. Sidqi said the Egyptian and Turkish sides agreed to complete the signing of agreements on land and sea transport and on tourism cooperation. He noted a need for the cooperation to involve joint petroleum and natural gas projects.

He said the two countries intend to increase trade between them gradually to reach $1 billion in the next few years instead of the current $350 million.

He said that the appropriate Egyptian and Turkish ministers will hold meetings today and tomorrow morning to further the general discussions that were held today and expand cooperation between the two countries.

Musa, Soysal Discuss Cooperation

NC0711110294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met his Turkish counterpart, Mumtaz Soysal, who is accompanying Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on her visit to Egypt.

The 90-minute meeting discussed issues of mutual interest, the situation in the Middle East in light of current developments, and ways to further consolidate bilateral cooperation.

Musa, Soysal Comment on Talks

NC0711115194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described his talks today with Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal as "productive," adding that they exchanged views on various issues concerning the region, in particular the march toward peace and ongoing efforts to push it forward.

At a joint news conference with Soysal at the end of their talks today, Musa said that they agreed to bolster Egyptian-Turkish relations in various fields, acting on the agreement reached yesterday between the prime ministers of both countries and President Mubarak's directives.

Musa added that they also reviewed developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in addition to other issues of mutual interest.

The Turkish foreign minister commended the excellent ties linking Egypt and Turkey, noting that the two states play an important role in the region. He affirmed that his country backs the Egyptian initiative to increase cooperation among Mediterranean states.

Soysal noted that Turkey actively participated in the Mediterranean forum meetings in Alexandria this summer.

Mubarak Inspects Flood-Stricken Areas

NC0411121194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1133 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 4 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning conducted an inspection tour of the areas hit by floods in the Upper Egyptian governorates two days ago. Several ministers accompanied the president on his tour.

Comments on Visit

NC0411141694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 4 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his deep sorrow at the damage in some Upper Egyptian governorates and reassured citizens afflicted by the catastrophe.

President Mubarak stressed that the state and the people will try to compensate the victims for their loss and promptly restore the disaster areas to their original state. The president issued instructions not to build homes in floodpath areas. The president made his remarks during an inspection tour of the flood-stricken areas in Asyut.

President Mubarak was accompanied during his visit by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Asyut Governor Muhammad Samih, and Armed Forces commanders. At the beginning of the tour President Mubarak inspected the damage caused to the Asyut-Al-Wadi al-Jadid road, which was cut off by the floods. The president then visited one of the camps set up by the Armed Forces to accommodate the displaced people. The citizens expressed their thanks and appreciation for the efforts exerted by the state and the Armed Forces to ease their suffering.

The president's motorcade passed through several villages and hamlets in Asyut. He inspected the damage caused by floods in the villages of Bani Ghalib, 'Ulwan, Bani 'Adi, and Manfalut. The president emphasized that Asyut has not seen such floods for 80 years. He described the floods as catastrophic but noted that they are the work of nature and cannot be avoided. President Mubarak noted that the floods damaged 4 km of the Asyut-al-Wadi al-Jadid road and destroyed villages and homes.

Heads Back To Cairo After Tour

NC0411221394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Luxor, 4 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his delegation left the city of Luxor this evening to return to Cairo after a day-long

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tour during which they inspected the effects of the floods that hit the governorates of Upper Egypt.

Mubarak Urges Parties To Help Flood Area Citizens

NC0511213794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has called on all parties in Egypt to provide assistance to citizens who incurred losses as a result of the catastrophic floods that swept Upper Egypt on 2 November. He urged the parties to get closer to the people in times of crisis and play their natural role in these times.

In a statement to Egyptian television, President Mubarak stressed that the fire that had broken out in the village of Durunkah resulted from lightening, not a short circuit, as some news agencies had reported. He added that he had personally verified this fact during his visit to Durunkah yesterday. President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt has not seen such floods in about 80 years, adding that they are an act of nature. He expressed his deepest condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims.

President Mubarak added that he had given instructions to begin building homes for persons who lost their homes to the floods, and to provide the homes with the necessary utilities. He noted that some of these citizens may wish to build their homes on their own. In such cases, the state will not object to this and will provide them with lands that are far from low areas and also utilities, he added.

Further Appeals From Mubarak

NC0711071894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that all the state's agencies acted immediately to handle the flood crisis and take suitable measures.

In an interview with today's MAYU, the mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party, the president said: I made a point of going to the site of the disaster to personally observe relief measures and extend my condolences to the aggrieved and to the families of the victims.

Mubarak added: I inspected the affected areas and the relief camps, where the afflicted inhabitants have been moved, to get a complete picture of the situation and the losses so that the people may be compensated for their losses.

The president pointed out that the homes that were destroyed in the village of Durunkah in Asyut Governorate were built haphazardly from adobe and in the path of the flood. The homes remaining are built of baked red brick. They were not badly affected and can easily be repaired.

Mubarak said that all the officials measured up to their responsibility in all the affected governorates and that relief aid, tents, food, medicine, and clothing are still being provided to the flood-stricken areas. The president said that the funds needed to rebuild the ruined homes have been provided and that all the aggrieved will be compensated.

The president appealed to all the parties to assist their afflicted brothers, to rise to their responsibility, and to act positively. He called on all citizens to assist their fellow citizens, noting that Egyptians are famous for their social solidarity.

Residents Lash Out at Government's on Disaster

NC0411204594 Paris AFP in English 1839 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report by Hassan Mekki]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durunkah, Egypt, Nov 4 (AFP)—Durunkah residents on Friday [4 November] lashed out at the government's handling of a fire and floods that killed almost 550 people in southern Egypt.

"The government considers Asyut as the province of terrorists. That's why it gives it no importance," said a teacher who lost three cousins when a river of burning oil swept through the village of Durunkah on Wednesday.

Impoverished Asyut province is a stronghold for Islamic militants who have been waging a war against President Husni Mubarak's secular government since March 1992.

"There haven't been protests until now but the governor of Asyut must understand the people are overcome with grief. When they turn the page, they will not stay silent," warned the teacher, who asked not be named.

"Without concrete measures, the situation could explode soon," he added, surrounded by a dozen men in a street of destroyed homes.

Mustafa, a physical education student at Asyut University, called for the resignation of Asyut's governor, Muhammad Samih al-Sa'id. Others nodded approval.

"He did nothing for the population while we experienced the worst catastrophe Egypt has known," he said.

"We didn't receive any compensation and most of the 22,000 inhabitants didn't get any blankets," Imam Muhammad, a peasant with a torn galabiya (Egyptian robe), said.

His family of six only received two blankets.

A government official here said he received orders to distribute only three blankets per family regardless of its size.

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Mubarak on Friday toured a camp for the homeless set up by the army near Asyut, prayed in a mosque and flew over Durunkah before traveling to Luxor, where several Pharaonic monuments have also been flooded.

Accompanied by several of his top ministers, Mubarak ordered Dronka's reconstruction, compensation for farmers, school books for children whose homes were destroyed, and an army helicopter to transport burn victims to a Cairo military hospital.

"We must start by helping the poorest," Mubarak said.

At least 481 bodies have been recovered in Durunkah, after it was devastated by a fire Wednesday at an oil depot which spread through the village on a river of flame.

At least 60 more people died in torrential rains which swept the rest of the southern province of Asyut, hospitals said in their latest toll for Egypt's worst disaster since a 1992 earthquake.

Eight people died in flooding in other parts of the country, officials said.

Survivors of the quake had also complained of the government's relief efforts.

The Moslem Brotherhood, as they did after the 1992 quake, has also been distributing aid through mosques under their control but Islamic militants have not been visible.

Officials and residents said that notables—whose homes on the outskirts of the village survived unscathed—also had blankets. "The wealthy always find a way to get help," Imam Muhammad complained.

Governor al-Sa'id also angered residents when he argued that the homes near the depot had been built illegally. Several inhabitants insisted their homes had been there for years.

Emergency efforts also came under attack.

"The fires raged for 24 hours and destroyed the village without anyone intervening," 'Abd-al-Badi' Muhammad, a local peasant, said.

"Out of the 22 fire-control vehicles which arrived Wednesday in the village, only two worked," he said.

While touring Asyut, Mubarak hit out at opposition party newspapers which also criticized the aid effort.

"We have many opposition parties. Instead of their writing big headlines saying 'a new disaster,' why don't they help?" he asked journalists.

"This is a natural disaster. Is it the state that makes the disaster?" he asked.

Mauritania

Democratic Forces Union Leader on Party's Aims

MM0411160694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 94 p 4

[Interview with Ahmed Ould Dada, leader of the Mauritanian opposition Democratic Forces Union, by al-Shaykh Bakay in Nouakchott; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Bakay] Some people say that your party is finished politically and has become a minor group like the other groups in the wake of the recent successive pullouts. Do you still consider yourself the number one opposition force?

[Ould Dada] What has happened is that the Democratic Forces Union has moved from the front stage to the party stage. Everyone is agreed on the need for what has been done, namely reexamining past structures, which can no longer continue. Actually, the problems existed before the restructuring process. Some people tried to exploit the past municipal elections to detonate them. In brief, the grassroots have not left the party after those who have pulled out. This is what I myself and the other missions sensed in the various parts of the country. The blacks who pulled out could not tell the grassroots that they had pulled out completely, because the grassroots are clinging to the party. In fact the party was negligent in its activities and contacts with the grassroots, but it is now in full touch with the grassroots. [passage omitted]

[Bakay] How do you view the parties' future?

[Ould Dada] This country is in a dilemma at all levels. No one knows what is going to happen. A way out must be found.

[Bakay] Violence, for example?

[Ould Dada] Violence could be the way out, but I personally reject it. My philosophy is to wait until democratic solutions impose themselves. I will continue this line, and if I reach the stage of motionlessness, I will decide whether to quit politics or to embark on another action. Actually I prefer to wait, because this country is vulnerable to chaos and its recent past was merely warring tribes. [passage omitted]

[Bakay] If the ruling party invites you into a coalition government, would you agree to join it in your new circumstances?

[Ould Dada] I am surprised by that question. The party is not looking for ministerial portfolios, but, rather, radical political changes that give expelled (black) Mauritanians the right to return, respect people's dignity, halt police arrests, end maladministration, and prevent jobs and wealth from being given to those who do not deserve them. Nevertheless, the party does not reject a coalition government whose sole aim is to prepare conditions for a real democracy.

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Parliament To Open 1994-95 Session 14 Nov

LD0611225694 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A decree released today by the presidency of the republic announced that the parliamentary session for 1994-95 will open on Monday 14 November. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Speech on Green March Anniversary

LD0611223294

[FBIS Editorial Report] Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic at 2125 GMT on 6 November broadcasts a seven-minute live address by King Hassan on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the 1975 Green March in which he led Moroccans to the Western Sahara. Reception is good.

He begins his speech by reminding the people of the Green March as a part of Morocco's history and saying that the next celebration of the Green March anniversary next year will mark 20 years of steadfastness and steadiness on the issue of Morocco's stance on the Western Sahara.

He then stresses the role of decentralization and the concept of economic regions in Morocco's economic development, saying that while Morocco is one entity, this should not mean ignoring the special characteristics and aspects of various geographic regions. These characteristics should be preserved and promoted as a means to strengthen the unity of the country and help the central authorities attain the speed and the efficiency needed in their work, he says. He goes on to say that the issue of economic regions should be another achievement in Morocco's history that requires preparation.

He then advises the people to ponder this and other issues thoroughly before taking any decisions because, as he puts it, decisions made today produce effects at later stages and better thinking is needed for better results every time. He quotes a Koranic verse in the same vein and concludes by saying that he meant to be brief as he has appeared on television quite frequently recently during Casablanca's World Forum on the Middle East and North Africa.

King Hassan makes no comment or statement about the new coalition government promised in his earlier speech on 14 October.

UAE President Arrives for Visit From Cairo

LD0411154294 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 4 MAP—President Sheikh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates arrived Thursday [3 November] in Morocco coming from Cairo. During his two-day stay in Cairo, Sheikh Zayid conferred with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and the latest evolution in the Middle-East after the Casablanca economic summit on the Middle-East and North Africa (October 31 through November 2).

Government Council Discusses Casablanca Summit

LD0411174594 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 04 (MAP)—The Moroccan Government Council heard at a meeting held Thursday [3 November] under the chairmanship of Premier and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali reports on the Middle-East/North Africa economic summit.

Abdellatif Filali stressed the summit held Oct. 30-Nov. 1 resulted in many important decisions. He cited in this regard the creation of an executive secretariat, to be based in Morocco. The secretariat will have to solidify the new structures of economic development and to contribute to global security in the region.

For his part, Finance and Investments Minister Mourad Cherin said Morocco presented during the conference various projects of basic equipment and explained investments opportunities and advantages offered to foreign investors.

Agriculture Minister Abdelaziz Meziane Belfkih stressed the importance of the development of irrigation, agronomic research and partnership agricultural projects. Several participants were interested in the projects presented by Morocco, he said.

Privatization delegate Minister Abderrahmane Saidi said the summit was an opportunity to inform participants on the Moroccan privatization process which is meant to modernize and boost the national economy, encourage investments and generate job opportunities. He recalled the various contacts and meetings held in this regard with international private economic operators.

Taking the floor, Post and Telecommunications Minister Abdeslam Ahizoune said the Casablanca summit was an opportunity to inform the participants on the development of the telecom sector in Morocco and on efforts exerted to attract foreign investors in this field.

Tourism Minister Serge Berdugo highlighted the importance of the tourism sector which benefitted from a particular interest during the summit and recalled the decision to set up a regional tourism board to develop tourism cooperation in the region.

For his part, State Minister for the Interior and Information Driss Basri underlined efforts exerted by all services and sectors to prepare for the conference.

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USFP Working Toward a 'Changeover of Power'

LD0611233094 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Committee of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces Party [USFP] held an extraordinary meeting in Rabat on the 5th and 6th November to discuss the latest developments on the national political arena. Mohamed Yazghi, The party's acting secretary general, said:

[Begin Yazghi recording] Our Central Committee is the decision-making body in the Socialist Union of Popular Forces. It is today continuing the meeting it began yesterday. The Political Bureau has submitted a report to the Central Committee, in which it raised the issues and developments on the political arena, particularly the offer by his majesty the king to the opposition to form the future coalition government with whoever it wants.

Of course, the royal speech on 14 October was the subject of the discussions held yesterday and that will end today.

Naturally, you know that the USFP has fought for 30 years for the idea of changeover of power and governments. The USFP wished that such a changeover would take place democratically through ballot boxes, but the country is now experiencing a political crisis and the national movement now have a choice between a continued political crisis and responding to the appeal launched by his majesty the king within the framework of the charter that has always linked the throne to the national movement. [end recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] At the end of USFP's Central Committee meeting, Mohamed Yazghi, the acting secretary general of the USFP, gave a statement to the national radio in which he said that this meeting ended by approving the Political Bureau's report. The Central Committee gave the Political Bureau the prerogatives to carry out initiatives of dialogue with the party's allies toward achieving a changeover of power. Mr. Mohamed Yazghi said that in a statement to be published on 8 November, the Central Committee has hailed his majesty the king's message at the opening of the current legislative season.

Tunisia

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Ethiopia

LD0411093194 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon a ceremony was held for the signing of three Tunisian-Ethiopian agreements which represent the legal framework of the bilateral cooperation and define its fields. This came after the official visit of the Ethiopian foreign minister.

The first agreement is on the creation of a joint Tunisia-Ethiopian committee which will be concerned with the implementation and follow up of the agreed upon programs.

The second agreement is on commercial cooperation making possible the promotion of the agreement between the two countries concluded in 1960.

The third agreement is a framework agreement for economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.

The three agreements were signed by Messrs Habib Ben Yahya, the minister of foreign affairs and his Ethiopian counterpart, Mr. Seyoum Mesfin. [passage omitted]

New TV Channel Announced at News Conference

LD0311220694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdelhafid Hergam, director general of the Tunisian Radio and Television establishment, at a news conference held this afternoon at the broadcasting house said that the radio and television establishment will on 7 November witness an important broadcasting event, namely the launching of the Youth Television Channel 21 which had been previously announced by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in his speech to a youth meeting on 18 March. [passage omitted].

On the name that is being given to this channel, "The Youth TV Channel 21," he explained that this name symbolizes the future direction of this channel which would be contributing to the preparation of Tunisian youths for the 21st century. [passage omitted]

Channel 21 is a specialized channel aimed at children starting from childhood through their teenage years. He said that the cost incurred in setting up Channel 21 was 3.5 million dinars. It will be launched on 7 November on the French Channel 2 for two hours and 35 minutes daily from 1740 to 2015. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Group To Approach UN for Reparations From Iraq

LD0711094594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0837 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 7 Nov (KUNA)—The head of the general organization for assessing the losses which resulted from Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait said this morning that the organization is preparing a study to be submitted to the UN Security Council claiming reparations resulting from the recent Iraqi threats along the Kuwaiti borders.

Engineer 'Abd al-Rahman al-Huti, speaking to the newspaper AL-WATAN, stressed Kuwait's legitimate claim for compensation. [passage omitted]

He said the organization is seriously looking into this issue and it will assess the losses and damage caused by the recent crisis which was deliberately created by the Iraqi regime in October.

He pointed out that the organization will afterward refer the issue to the UN Security Council so that it will adopt a resolution authorizing the International Reparations Commission to pass judgement on the case. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, Dr Sa'd 'Ukashah, a senior adviser at the general organization for assessing the losses from Iraqi aggression, said in a newspaper interview that the Kuwaiti Government intends to submit a claim totalling $100 billion for losses caused by Iraqi aggression. [passage omitted]

Oman

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

LD0711133794 Riyadh SPA in English 1303 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Text] Muscat, Nov 7, SPA—Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin arrived here last night on a brief visit to Oman. Omani news agency reported that he was welcomed by a number of officials from the Omani Foreign Ministry.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Japanese Crown Prince

LD0611211794 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received in his office in al-Yamamah Palace today His Imperial Highness Prince Naruhito, the Japanese crown prince, his wife Princess Masako, and the delegation accompanying them. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

PRC Delegates, National Council Members Meet

JN0511140494 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A round of talks was held at the Federal National Council [FNC] building today between an FNC delegation under the chairmanship of FNC speaker His Excellency al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi and the visiting delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress headed by Vice-Chairman Li Peiyao.

At the beginning of talks, His Excellency al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi welcomed the head and members of the Chinese delegation. He stressed that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president, is concerned with developing ties of cooperation with the Peoples Republic of China. He said that these ties are witnessing continuous progress. He expressed the hope that the Chinese delegation's visit will promote relations of friendship and cooperation between the two states.

Li Peiyao expressed his happiness at visiting the UAE for the first time, noting that this visit coincides with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Li Peiyao stressed that the visit of the UAE president to China and the Chinese president's visit to the UAE have contributed to promoting relations between the two countries. He added that his current visit is aimed at furthering bilateral cooperation in various fields and establishing relations and contacts between the Chinese National People's Congress and the NFC. He officially invited al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi to lead a delegation on a visit to China next year. He noted that the exchange of visits between the two councils will contribute to enhancing relations of friendship and cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

The two sides agreed on the importance of continuing dialogue and coordination between the councils over various parliamentary issues of interest to the two councils, and on the exchange of information with the aim of enhancing relations among members of the two councils. They also agreed to hold joint meetings that would bolster bilateral relations and coordinate their positions in international forums.

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'Aziz Declares 'No Problems' With Israel

JN0611171794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz says there are no problems between Iraq and Israel and that his country is no longer in a state of war with Israel. In a statement to the latest issue of the French monthly magazine LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, 'Aziz said: We are not in a bilateral conflict with Israel. Asked why Iraq is silent about the Middle East peace process, 'Aziz said that Iraq should not go into an issue to which it is not a party.

Spokesman Denounces Iranian 'Aggression'

JN0611164294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Iraq has expressed its denunciation of the hostile action taken by the Iranian regime against Iraqi territories at dawn today and has held the Iranian Government fully responsible. In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, an official spokesman at the Foreign Ministry said Iraq preserves its full legitimate right to defend itself against the unjust Iranian aggression in an appropriate way and at the appropriate time.

He added that proper measures have been taken to retaliate for any new Iranian aggression. The Foreign Ministry also sent a strongly-worded official memorandum of protest to Iran. The Iranian charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad will be summoned for that purpose.

The spokesman pointed out that the foreign minister sent a letter to the UN secretary general containing a strong protest of the Iranian aggression, as well as a complaint against the Iranian regime for committing a new aggression on Iraqi territories.

The official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry also pointed out that the Iranian regime carried out a hostile military operation against Iraqi territories early Sunday [6 November] morning without any justification.

He also said that the Iranian Armed Forces fired three surface-to-surface Scud missiles at a target 80 kilometers inside Iraqi territory.

He added that the first missile fell inside Iraqi territory at 0035 [2135 GMT] on 5-6 October, that the second missile fell at 0040 [1940 GMT], five minutes after the first missile, and that the third missile fell inside Iraqi territory at 0130 [2030 GMT] today.

The spokesman added that the allegations the Iranian regime is repeating to justify its aggression are ridiculous and call for strong denunciation. These allegations say that Iranian forces opposing the Iranian regime are present inside Iraq and that the Iranian regime commits its aggression against Iraq.

He emphasized that the whole world is aware that Mojahedin-e Khalq and other Iranian forces that oppose the Iranian regime are in fact inside Iran and that their branches outside Iran exist in a number of world countries, including Iran's neighboring states. Why did the Iranian regime not use its missiles to commit aggression on them if it is telling the truth through its fabricated pretexts to launch aggression against Iraq, thinking that it can fool Iranian and world public opinion?

The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman said these desperate and flagrant attempts by the Tehran rulers and their camouflaging of their operations against Iraq will not change any of the existing facts. They will not gain anything by trying to export their crises outside their borders or by hinting to the Great Satan [the United States] and its agents that they are prepared to render ignominious services to the forces of domination and colonization, as the Tehran rulers did during the chapter of treachery and treason [following the 1991 Gulf war].

IRNA Links Attack to Iraqi Forces

LD0611190894 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—Iraqi oppositions said that at least eight explosions were heard from the base of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) inside the Iraqi territory Sunday [6 November]. The Iraqi national news agency quoting an opposition source, reported that following the consecutive explosions, fire broke out in several parts of the base where mercenaries of the Iraqi regime are settled. According to the report, ambulances rushing from the base and the noise coming out of it indicated that heavy casualties must have been inflicted on the terrorists.

Border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran chased two teams of MKO terrorists who intended to attack Iranian western border areas, invading an MKO concentration center early Sunday.

The source added that simultaneously with the chase of the MKO terrorists by the Iranian border guards, the Iraqi opposition forces launched a series of lightning attacks on the MKO base, 80 km from Iran-Iraq border. No report is yet available on the extent of damage and number of casualties. However, various sources described the damage as heavy.

Camp on Alert After Attack

NC0611214494 Paris AFP in English 2109 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashraf Camp, Iraq, Nov 6 (AFP)—Iranian rebels based in Iraq went on a state of high alert Sunday [6 November] after a missile attack on their camp at Ashraf caused heavy damage but no casualties.

"Our fighters have been put on maximum alert and units are patrolling the entire length of the border to prevent

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any new Iranian aggression," a spokesman for the People's Mojahedin told reporters who visited the camp 120 kilometres (75 miles) from Baghdad.

Iran unleashed four Scud-B surface-to-surface missiles at the camp of the main Iranian armed opposition group late Saturday.

One missile ploughed into the ground near a training area, forming a crater seven metres (yards) wide and 3.5 metres deep. The attack also blew out windows, caused ceilings to collapse and knocked down overhead electricity cables.

"Our fighters spotted the missile and tried to shoot it down before it fell," said Zahra Gerabian, the camp commander.

A second missile landed inside the camp, forming a smaller crater. Two other missiles landed a kilometre away, the Mojahedin said.

"Luckily there were no casualties" in the attack which damaged a dining hall and prayer room, Gerabian said.

The Mojahedin was expecting another attack from Iranian government forces "at any time," she said.

Earlier the Mojahedin said the missiles were fired from the Iranian province of Kermanshah. The Scud-B has a range of 300 kilometres (180 miles).

Iraq Sunday protested to the United Nations over the Iranian attack.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency accused Tehran of having "carried out a new act of aggression against Iraqi territory, by firing three Scud missiles at a target more than 80 kilometres (50 miles) inside" Iraq.

Baghdad "reserves the right to defend itself against this Iranian aggression with appropriate means and at the right time," he said.

Iran "is attacking Iraqi territory in order to render despicable services for the forces of hegemony and colonialism," the spokesman added.

Earlier Iran said its border guards had raided a Mojahedin base at Abu Ghurayb, 30 kilometres (20 miles) west of the Iraqi capital, killing a number of rebels.

The Iranian thrust came shortly after security forces thwarted a Mojahedin cross-border raid to sabotage oil installations, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Two rebels were killed and three arrested as well as two Iranian guards wounded, one of them critically, the agency said. The rebels planned to bomb oil wells and pipelines in the town of Musian, in the southwestern province of Ilam, it added.

"While chasing two teams of the terrorist Mojahedin, border guards invaded an MKO (Mojahedin-e Khalq) concentration center," IRNA said, adding that several rebels were killed and the Abu Ghurayb base was heavily damaged.

A People's Mojahedin spokesman in Paris ridiculed the Iranian report.

"We don't know how an Iranian commando could cross the border and come so close to Baghdad. That is absurd," said Ali Safavi.

Iran has repeatedly accused the Mojahedin of launching cross-border attacks and of carrying out terrorist attacks inside Iran, including a blast in June that left 24 dead and dozens injured.

The Mojahedin, which at first backed the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, launched a bloody campaign against the new Tehran leadership three years later.

Paper Calls Attack 'Dastardly'

JN0711085294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the new Iranian attack on Iraqi territory is a dastardly action that exposes Iran's designs of aggression and its unceasing attempts to fabricate problems to destabilize the region in service of U.S. imperialism and objectives in the region.

In its editorial today by Chief Editor Taha al-Basri, AL-THAWRAH says that by firing three surface-to-surface missiles at Iraqi territory the Iranian regime shows that the signs sent by Iranian politicians through their hostile statements against the arch Satan are merely for local consumption and to deceive the Iranian people who have been afflicted with this clique, which has led them from bad to worse.

AL-THAWRAH adds: From the time Iran accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598 and following the aggression which ended with the Great Victory Battle on 8 August 1988, Iraq has taken care to look beyond what the eight-year Iranian aggression had caused and to hold a dialogue with Iran to have its leaders regain their senses and respect their neighbor's sovereignty and not to interfere in its domestic affairs.

The paper says: But, it seems that the ossified minds of those who control the Iranian people's fate and who insist on aggression cannot comprehend the fact that any new aggression they may carry out will be defeated as was the case with their previous barbaric aggression and war against Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH says that the great Iraqi people, the people of leader Saddam Husayn, who through the immortal Mother of Battles and the second al-Qadisiyah battle had confronted the huge arsenals of the aggressors and their barbaric aggression and had remained steadfast with their heads held high are capable of inflicting

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decisive defeat on the enemies if they do not learn the lesson and return to the sound path.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Iraq reserves the right to respond in the manner it believes fit and at the appropriate time as mentioned in the Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement on the aggression.

Militia Clashs With Kurds; 11 Reported Killed

NC0511174094 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chamchamal, Iraq, Nov 5 (AFP)—Eleven people have been killed in a clash between Kurdish tribesmen and militiamen in northern Iraq, Kurdish officials said here Saturday [5 November]. A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said its fighters were ambushed by members of the Kawamand tribe in Chamchamal near the city of al-Sulaymaniyah.

Hasan Berzinci, head of an all-party delegation sent to calm the situation, said 11 people were killed and a number of others injured in the ambush.

Residents of two Kawamand villages where several homes were burnt down charged the PUK attacked them in retaliation. "The PUK took everything, chicken, goats, our foodstuff," said an old woman, Mejid Jette Salah. But the PUK denied the charge.

Iraqi Kurds have been in control of most of northern Iraq, under a Western security umbrella, since the aftermath of Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War for Kuwait.

Government Paper on Conflict

JN0711105394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, 7 Nov (INA)—Over 50 people have been killed in the continued armed conflict which has been going on since the beginning of this month in Chamchamal area, near al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq. The victims belonged to a group affiliated with the renegade Mas'ud Barzani, led by Hamah Rikum, and another affiliated with Jalal Talabani led by a man called Shaykh Ja'far.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, which published the report today, says that a person called Talaw 'Ali 'Askari, an agent affiliated with the renegade Jalal Talabani, was wounded in the clashes.

The paper says that similar clashes are reported in Qal'at Dizah area [word indistinct] in two sites, Karmakan and Nur-al-Din, and the area close to the headquarters of the so-called Islamic Movement.

The paper says that a large number of people from the [Mas'ud Barzani's] Party and Talabani group were killed in these clashes. They included the two agents Hamzah Karim and Razkar Khadr from Jalal Talabani's group.

The paper stresses that the area around al-Sulaymaniyah District offices was the scene of a battle between elements of the so-called Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in which the warring factions used all kinds of weapons. A number of people were killed, including Sabir Najm-al-Din Hasan, who is affiliated with the Talabani group and whose father was badly wounded in the battle, and a person called Ahmad 'Ali Baybir, from Mas'ud Barzani's group.

The paper says that at 1715 on 26 October, a battle erupted in Sadawah, Irbil Governorate, between armed elements from the so- called Islamic Jihad Organization, led by Mulla Amin, and elements calling themselves Kurdistan Region Government Forces. The battle resulted in the death of a captain and a commissioner from these forces. The paper notes that the battle raged for more than three hours after which all those present at the Islamic Jihad headquarters fled Sadawah and unidentified elements rushed to the plunder and loot the building.

Observers of the situation in Irbil say the battle was initiated by the forces affiliated with the Kurdistan Islamic Jihad Organization, which is now coordinating its activities with the secessionist group that controls several Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

Clinton Address to Israeli Knesset Criticized

JN0411141494 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Oct 94 pp 1, 3

["Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Mr. Clinton: Who Stands for the Past? Peoples or Executioners?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. President: When you describe the overwhelming majority of Arabs and Muslims as people who stand for the past, and then threaten them with extermination, you assume proportions that are larger than life. For you have promoted the logic of the Roman Emperor Caligula, who named his horse the deputy speaker of Rome's Parliament—a body that brought together senior notables as members—believing that his absolute and unchallenged authority could enable him to "persuade" people that his decisions were right by using official intimidation.

But, Mr. Clinton, have you seen how history judged Caligula and his conduct? People believe that Caligula's conduct was a manifestation of insanity and an expression of extreme sadistic tendencies.

I would also like to push you into a dark corner of your memory, which has grown weak due to the many transactions you have been engaged in, and to ask you the following questions: Have you forgotten your shouts in the sixties when you were studying in Britain, when you demonstrated against U.S. imperialism and the deaths of 2 million Vietnamese? Then, you shouted: You imperialists, reactionaries, and murderers—get out of Vietnam! Have you forgotten this? We are reminding you of this,

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because you, at present, are walking in the footsteps of Caligula. You seek to stop the evolution of history, to reverse it, and to neutralize its movement to gratify the crazy whims of the doting and senile capitalist system. By calling pan-Arabists and Islamists reactionary people, do you seek to erase the plethora of negative epithets the world peoples, including Americans, have used to describe the United States? Have you forgotten that your policies have been described as reactionary?

Mr. President: Yes, we pan-Arabists and the people upholding the current of Islamic renaissance, do stand for the past. But, have you asked yourself which past we stand for? Certainly, you do not like the past, because the United States, just like the Zionist entity, does not have a history. This is because both the United States and the Zionist entity were established by the force of colonialist arms. As for us, the past mirrors our roots and heritage, which is marked by honor, pride, and great accomplishments. We are the epitome of civilization. The three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, were born on our territory. The ancient and modern history of the world was written in Sumer, Babylon, Akkad, Assyria, Egypt, Carthage, Greater Syria, and Andalusia. These places were centers of excellence that enriched the entire globe.

Mr. President: Yes, we strongly support your words. We do stand for the past, because the present cannot last, nor can it serve as a basis for a bright future. Besides, those who do not have a past live in a world that is both empty and fragile. As for us, we have been disciplined, cultured, and enriched by a civilization that is 6,000 years old. This is something you cannot boast, because you are a nation of immigrants that fosters crime and murder. That is why you seek to kill tradition.

Mr. President: With regard to the future, it is we who will forge it. I hope that you will not make another mistake by reading history inversely. For history is a huge train that forges ahead. It is true that it may turn around a mountain or enter a dark tunnel. Nonetheless, it is bound to reach its destination. At present, we are on a train that had to use a "temporary detour." But it goes without saying that it will resume its normal activity.

Mr. President: You have said that you enjoy military superiority. Yes, we do acknowledge that. But, it remains to be said that history has taught us that the empires built on sheer military might are short-lived, extremely fragile, and unable to influence its environs. You possess nothing other than military might. Your economy is deteriorating. Other powers have begun to surpass you. Mr. President, you have conceded that your social values are eroding at a rapid pace. Your impoverishment of world cultures is constantly aggravating. Hence, your reliance on sheer force at present is the outcome of the judgment of a naive person, whose intellect is operating outside the realm of history, and in fact, against the current of history.

Mr. President: In addition to all this, we must draw your attention to an established fact; namely, that the possession of machines of repression and sheer might does not qualify one to determine who stands for the past and who stands for the future. The parties that uphold a message and cherished values are the ones qualified to determine who belongs to the past, and who belongs to the future. History is the outcome of class struggle, and of clashes of ideas, ideologies, and principles. Given all this, we would like to ask you the following questions: On what grounds do you base your argument when you maintain that America stand for the future? Have you read the book "Preparing for the 21st Century" by U.S. Professor Paul Kennedy? You have definitely not read the book, but perhaps you bothered to read a two-page summary of the book. Hence, Mr. President, I suggest that you read the entire book, even though this suggestion might be difficult for you to carry out, given your "unpretentiousness," which is a trait you share with your friend the great philosopher Husni Mubarak. If he were to read this article, Mubarak would laugh and say: "By God, the writer of this article is bound to be great. He is calling me a philosopher." If he were to make such utterances, Dr. Usamah al-Baz would strike him with his foot and whisper to him saying: "Mr. President, this Iraqi is ridiculing you." Then, Mubarak would say: "These Iraqis are driving me nuts."

When you read what Paul Kennedy wrote, you will realize that the future of the United States looks very grim on all levels. If you want to know more, then read his previous book "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers." But, before doing either, just study the statistics on the crime rate, social degeneration, inflation, unemployment, and the deterioration of the standard of education in the United States. When you do this, you will see that the United States is going downhill and will be relegated into oblivion while others progress to represent the present and the future.

Mr. President: You also must not forget one cogent fact—that colonialism belongs to the loathsome past that was buried by history. As you know, colonialism consists of the use of force to control other nations, plunder their resources, and distort their cultures. This is what British and French colonialism did in the past century and the first half of this century, and this is what you, the rootless Americans, are doing now.

The colonialist era is gone forever. However, the collapse of communism has brought about a strange situation the likes of which, Mr. President, we only find in U.S. fiction movies that resuscitate the dead to have them kill and ravage life until they are once again killed. You Americans represent a colonialism that has regained life after death, the same as the reappearance of the plague in India. Your objectives are declared and explicit. They consist of controlling the world and plundering its resources. Your methods are more than explicit. They consist of power and only power, which you use even against your major allies.

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Did you not give the polite ambassador, Albright, the permission to describe the French defense minister's statements as rubbish? Have you not repeatedly insulted Japan, Germany, and France over the years and have you not blackmailed them?

Mr. President: Your policy is that of the old colonialism resuscitated. You are the enemies of justice and right, not to mention that you are the refuse of a past that has resurfaced by mistake and will inevitably return to the grave, as will be the fate of your nauseating movies. From this premise, you represent the worst reactionary force in history in terms of ideology, political systems, practices, and depraved values. With due respect for your official status, you are considered the worst reactionary actor. As for us, the sons of pan-Arabism and great Islam, we are the future and represent progress because we preach noble and great human principles and values: the faith in the people's right to self-determination, social justice, purity, faith in God, social and scientific advancement, and hostility to injustice and corruption.

Mr. President: Do you now know why we are perturbed by your statements about our great Prophet Muhammad? Are you such a simpleton as to be convinced that the Arabs and the Muslims will believe that you are not hostile to them while they know that you have contributed to the death of 1 million Iraqi Muslims and thousands of Muslim Arabs in Algeria, Egypt, Somalia, and Sudan? Mr. President: Deeds and not words are the only yardstick for differentiating stands. You work to exterminate the Muslims while your statements about cooperation among religions is belied by your behavior, which confirms that your regime upholds the theory of the struggle of cultures, and that you, personally, have become a tool to fan the fires of this bloody struggle between religions, nationalities, and communities in the world.

Mr. President: I promised to respect your status as the President of the United States, which exports all evils. But, I was at a loss as to how I should describe you when I read your speech at the Zionist Knesset once, twice, and three times. I swear by Paula and Jennifer that I searched for words to describe you other than the description that your speech dictated, but I failed. Your speech forces me to make an exception here and to say to you that you are a big liar.

Do you want us to believe the story you have narrated to the Knesset members claiming that you visited the Zionist entity 13 years ago accompanied by a U.S. pastor and that this pastor was taken ill and told you: Bill Clinton, one day you will become the President of the United States but I warn you that if you abandon Israel, God will never forgive you. You cleverly acted out your role and achieved the required result: Warm applause from the most inveterate Zionists who saw the president of the strongest country in the world bow to them, appearing to believe the prophecies of the Torah.

Mr. Clinton, there is no doubt that you are a liar because no one heard you tell this story before. The Americans, before any others, will mock you because they know you have concocted this story. You are a liar, too, because you have said more than once that you did not expect to become the president of the United States. Then, why did you concoct this story? It is very obvious that your situation electionwise is uncomfortable. Thanks to your unparalleled genius the Democratic Party's popularity is waning. If this continues until the next Congressional elections, you will lose the support you enjoy in Congress. This will be the first step to your falling into the same trap that swallowed the criminal Bush.

Thus, you want to win Jewish votes. CNN, which is completely independent of the government, relayed live to U.S. Jews your performance of that theatrical role. In this emotional manner, you secure Jewish votes for your party. Mr. Clinton, this is a dumb and obvious game. But, it is a very dangerous game played against us Arabs, and against the future of the United States, too.

Let me explain to you why this is so. This false story enhances the Biblical extremism and expansionist inclinations that the Zionists harbor against Arabs. They claim God has promised them Palestine. Now, you say this imaginary pastor predicted you would become president and that you must support Israel. What you say comes at a time when many Jews have started to rid themselves of this Biblical myth and to become convinced that coexistence with the Arabs requires giving up the Torah dreams. It is unfortunate for you that this trend first surfaced in the United States and Canada before moving to the Zionist entity, following the fall of Iraqi missiles on it.

You are restoring and nurturing Zionist illusions. You are forcefully asking them to abide by the myth. This means more enmity to the Arabs and more extremism in their policy of invading the Arabs land and usurping their resources. That's why your big lie cannot be anything other than a desire to achieve election gains. The revival of the Zionist myths coincides with the call to establish a new Middle East order in which the Zionist entity will be the creative mind exploiting Arab funds, resources, and labor, and invading their markets. This is the basic objective of the Casablanca economic summit that begins today. The summit will be attended by a 200-member Zionist delegation led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Therefore, Mr. Clinton, you are not bringing peace or development to the region, but continuing the genocidal war against the Arabs and Muslims. The killing of the Arabs and Muslims has paralyzed their strong reaction, for now. So, you began demolishing the sacred walls and spreading AIDS and the plague. You should learn from reality, not from history, because you neither know history nor have roots in it. Reality says you are barbaric colonialists who enjoy killing and annihilating people outside [America]. When people are exposed to annihilation they will be forced to organize their affairs and to

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exercise the most important right, the right to survival. The right to survival began to prompt those who love freedom and justice to resist you. And this resistance will escalate every day.

Mr. President: It seems you know well about America's complicated secret problem. Certainly, your advisers and the reports of the economists and politicians made you aware of the most dangerous thing facing America, which is "General Time". This strong general was never defeated and will never be defeated. This general clearly works against you. If you do not exploit the remaining years of this century to impose American leadership on the world all opportunities to impose this leadership will go away. And you know the reason: The astonishing development in Japan; Germany's swift return to play the role of a superpower; the accomplishing of the theoretical conditions to turn the union of Europe into a superpower; and the revival of the Russian giant and its internal union—at least insofar as Russia is a superpower that does not allow any dealing with it on any other basis—in addition to people's skepticism and their moving against the crimes of American colonialism. All these represent crushing and unrestrained power against all your forces, walls, and decisions.

"General Time" is fighting you. This general has defeated all the tyrants and evil empires. He has never been defeated. It is now the turn of the worst evil empire in history, the United States. I advise you, Mr. Clinton, to read Shakespeare's plays, so you will be convinced that the source and cause of all human tragedies and all eventualities of history and life is the progress of time, which has not stopped and will never stop! Did not Shakespeare's ingenuity surface when he discovered the tragedy of time?

Mankind's tragedy as a result of America's presence on top of the world order can only be clearly revealed if we read your reports! Perhaps, the report on searching for a gorilla and the report on a U.S. citizen named Sam Aferton [name as transliterated] topped last week's news. These reports embodied the fact that you are the source of catastrophe in the world! Information has been published to the effect that you designed a special satellite to search for a group of gorillas which were rendered homeless in Rwanda, and that your care for preserving this kind of animal prompted you to search for these gorillas using this satellite!

Any sensible man who read this report might have concluded that the effects of the Rwandan civil war were over and that people there were saved! However, such a conclusion is untrue for sensible and logical people because the Rwandan people are still losing thousands of Rwandans daily due to disease, starvation, and homelessness! This shows your double standards, taking into account that you consider protecting human rights as the first item on the agenda of your foreign policy. How could you move from the basic and immediate task, saving people in Rwanda from dying of death and disease, to leaving them to die in thousands while searching for a gorilla at large? Does this not conflict with logic and prove you despise mankind's smartness?

Likewise, why do you wish to save animals from extinction while annihilating millions of people every year, in accordance with your Malthusian plan through which you wish to exterminate two billion people on the pretext of food shortage and environmental protection? This report reveals the quality of your thinking, Mr. President!

As for the Sam Aferton's tragi-comic story, it is the fruit of your upbringing of Americans through television. You loudly stated that the world is the property of the United States, so your youths are now not aware of the limits of the U.S. borders. These borders sometimes include the Arabian Gulf. Did not the Carter Doctrine say so? These borders sometimes include the pyramids of Egypt and the Nubian Desert! The Egyptian authorities arrested a U.S. national named Sam Aferton on charges that are very strange by world standards but are ordinary charges by your standards!

Aferton claimed he was the third Nubian king, and that he wished to meet with his people in the Nubia and return them to the United States! When the police arrested him, he became very hysterical and began to take off his clothes in public! Have you heard this story? Do not tell me, Mr. President, that Aferton is insane, because in the United States it is difficult to distinguish between insanity and sanity. This fact is always asserted to you by the psychiatrists around you!

Aferton's claim that he was the king of the Nubian people is another caricature; the first being your claim that you are the leader of the world. It is also a natural fruit of your view of the world, as if it were an open ranch for you and all your citizens, whether they are sane or insane! Aferton's hysteria, which appeared when the Egyptian police arrested him, does not differ much from the hysteria of Madeleine Albright who was overwhelmed by rabid abuses and encroachments upon nations and peoples, only because some persons reminded her that other views exist!

As for taking off clothes during anger or playing, Aferton was not the only one who did so. I refer you to sweet Paula; she knows this is a U.S. tradition practiced by both presidents and ordinary citizens. Do you remember this, Mr. President?

Excuse me, Mr. Clinton, for this long chat. The blood of 1 million Iraqis bobs before my eyes when I see you talking like a big actor about virtue, decency, integrity, love for peace, and the need to work to transform Egypt, Jordan, and the Zionist entity into paradise. I have heard you talking about transforming the arid land into green land and the saline water into fresh water. Do you really want us to believe you?

When the United States was the Mother of the World—and I wish President Mubarak excuses me for saying that

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because he might get angry and say: "What's that! Egypt is the Mother of the World, and not the United States." He is hallucinating—you were not able to resolve the problems of Egypt and Jordan. So, how can you do that now, when your economy is facing one of the worst crises in the history of the United States.

Yes, you have transformed part of Palestine into a strong and advanced state under Zionist occupation. But you have ruined Egypt, Jordan and the other Arab states on purpose. So, should we expect your statements to be a cover for a new round of systematic sabotage in Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and what remains of Palestine? I personally think that you are about to bring about major catastrophes in the countries ruled by your Arab friends.

Have I bored you, Mr. President? I think the answer is yes. Therefore, allow me to comment on what you said in Kuwait. You said: "Iraq must implement the UN resolutions, or else." You then tried to borrow the language of Sylvester Stalone, who has a lot of muscles and no mind, when you sent several threats to Iraq, which you concluded by saying: "This is a promise and not a threat." I tell you, Mr. Clinton—and you can consider this a promise and not a threat—that the people of Iraq have dealt with other tyrants, such as the Tatars, who destroyed the Baghdad of civilization before you did. Therefore, these people do not fear the language of threats and blackmail. They are committed to implementing the UN resolutions to lift the embargo. Therefore, not lifting the embargo after everything they had implemented will be considered an official U.S. decision to exterminate millions of other Iraqis. Then, we will make to you the promise of men who have made history that we will defend ourselves through all available means. I hope Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will allow me to borrow the sentence he spoke to King Husayn so that I can say it to you, Mr. Clinton: Go drink the sea. It is, after all, near you now, but you will never taste Iraq's fresh waters as long as you come as a colonialist and an invader.

So, do you get what we meant when we borrowed the words of "sweet Paula" to be the title of our letter to you. I think your mind and wisdom will not help you understand the link between Paula's letter and the ideas I raised to your excellency. Therefore, I propose you ask your national security adviser, Anthony Lake about this link. Do not ask Husni Mubarak about it, because he will jump up with a stupid smile on his face and say: "That Iraqi says, he says, says... I do not know what he says, Mr. President, he is talking riddles."

U.S. Position on UN Sanctions Criticized

JN0611103294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has condemned the U.S. Administration's attempts to confiscate the right of the other permanent UN Security Council [UNSC] members to express their views freely and to make them endorse the perpetuation of the Iraq sanctions.

In an editorial published today, AL-QADISIYAH describes as insolent and unconscionable the statements made yesterday by a U.S. State Department spokesman on the stand the UNSC will adopt toward the Iraq sanctions.

The U.S. spokesman said yesterday that the U.S. Government expects the UNSC to call for maintaining the sanctions clamped on Iraq when it holds its review session after nine days.

The U.S. spokesman repeated the familiar allegations and claims that Iraq has failed to comply with the relevant UNSC resolutions.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the United States, by this precipitation, underscores its disrespect for the positions of the other permanent UNSC members, whose positions on the Iraq sanctions are clearly different from Washington's.

The paper adds that the Clinton administration is holding in abject contempt the positions of the other UNSC members "to precipitate an unconscionable position. It has chosen to achieve this objective by making a repulsive public statement in order to influence the upcoming deliberations."

The Iraqi newspaper believes that most permanent UNSC members will maintain their independent positions, and underscore their respect for the political choices they have made away from U.S. pressures and suggestions. This will expose the U.S. attempts at containment, as well as the White House's suspicious endeavors to force its stand on others.

In this regard, the paper notes the positions of Russia, France, Germany, and Italy. The paper adds that these countries' continuous expression of their free will on the official and popular levels will expose the U.S. attempts.

The paper notes the statements made by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, the articles written by other French officials, as well as the position of the French Senate, which crystallized during a seminar it held on the sanctions, arguing that all these statements and positions were unanimous that the revocation of the sanctions is inevitable.

AL-QADISIYAH also cites the most recent Russian assurances regarding the independent and firm Russian position on the sanctions issue, saying that this position has been expressed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in a television seminar aired on 4 November. In that seminar, Kozyrev denied that Russia has made any concessions, or changed its positions on the Iraq sanctions.

In the same seminar held in Moscow, Kozyrev asserted that his country's interests, which are promoted by

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revoking the sanctions, do not correspond with the interests of Washington, which is pushing for an extension of the sanctions.

The paper notes the media and political positions on sanctions, saying that the increasing sympathy demonstrated by the world public, which is demanding an end to the sanctions, has extremely embarrassed, isolated, and confused the United States.

AL-QADISIYAH analyzes the objectives of Clinton's recent tour of the region, saying that Clinton sought to remedy the embarrassing position of his administration as well as its confusion, to end its isolation, and to portray it as the godfather of the peaceful settlement.

The paper adds: For the same purpose, Washington put its weight, along with the weight of the Zionist entity, behind the Casablanca economic cooperation conference, which, according to Western experts, has failed to promote real investment because of the economic difficulties faced by most of the countries attending the conference, because the Zionist influence on the conference was too enormous to be concealed, and also because of the attempts to promote U.S. domination.

The paper expresses absolute confidence that Iraq will emerge victorious, and that the imperialist-Zionist scheme to abort its national, pan-Arab, regional, and international role will be thwarted.

U.S. Foreign Policy Said Promoting 'Lies'

JN0611125794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has condemned the U.S. policy, which promotes lies, misrepresents facts, and seeks to force its dictates on others.

In an article published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the fabrication of lies, forcing dictates on others, the misrepresentation of facts, and the creation of fictitious intelligence stories are the hallmarks of a constant course pursued by the United States. U.S. policies, decisions, and advice are based on this course.

The paper notes the baseless accusation the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency recently fabricated against Iraq when its director accused Iraq of digging an unusually large number of trenches and underground shelters. The paper adds: However, THE WASHINGTON POST published a report on 4 November, saying that this accusation, which over 2,000 espionage satellite pictures failed to substantiate, is groundless.

The paper recalls the anti-Iraq media campaigns launched by U.S. and other Zionist-directed media organs, particularly the tendentious reports, lies, and fallacies they have promoted. These lies and fallacies, especially the incubator story, have failed to stick. As for the war criminal George Bush, he did not hesitate to cite the incubator story six times in order to tarnish Iraq's image on the international scene. The same holds true for the alleged attempt on Bush's life, which was used as an excuse by the current U.S. Administration to launch an aggression against Iraq.

The paper concludes by saying: The U.S. course, which promotes lies and deception, is grounded in the rule "continue to lie until people begin to believe you". This course holds the world public opinion in complete disregard. Worse still, it has deceptively influenced the political stands of world states. This course aims to destroy man's intellectual, cultural, and spiritual potential.

English Paper Deplores UN 'Indecisiveness'

JN0611122494 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov.6, INA—The English-language daily 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' has criticized the U.N. for its indecisiveness and sterility towards world issues.

In its editorial for today, the paper said that the U.N.'s ineffective measures against Israel as well as the slack attitude towards the plight of the Iraqi people, who have been living under a severe economic embargo for over four years now, have brought world confidence in the United Nations to a low record. It is this world body which gave an aggressor like Israel free time to implement international legitimacy resolutions while it offered Iraq no opportunity to have its argument heard in 1990.

The paper said that the Israelis have also failed to implement Resolution 425 that demanded their pullout from Lebanese territory. Prime Minister Rabin has recently said Resolution 425 "does not exist".

A few days earlier, Rabin had said Jerusalem is the "historical capital of the State of Israel."

THE OBSERVER explained that Israel has always been a source of aggression in the Middle East. It has defied international legitimacy and is still acting as an aggressive party in the region. However, the paper added, Israel was not punished by the U.N. for its intransigence, but on the contrary it was being encouraged, by the United States, to give a deaf ear to all calls and appeals aimed at restoring Arab rights.

The paper commented that Arab rulers carried away by the joy for "peace" deem to forget the indisputable fact that the Israelis have given very little in return for the great concessions offered by the Arabs.

Israel has been defying Security Council resolutions since 1967. It has not implemented Resolution 242 which was issued the same year and which calls for Israeli withdrawal from all Arab land occupied in the 1967 war.

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The U.N. has not been decisive enough to stop the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia either, it has not moved to check atrocities against the helpless civilians of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the paper said.

The paper concluded that the United Nations has become a sterile world body that needs to assert its own character away from spheres of influence by certain powers. It should reassert itself as a just, impartial world establishment working for peace and stability.

'Health Source' on Infant Deaths From Sanctions

JN0411134494 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 4 (INA)—Some 88,764 children have died because of the U.S.-designed U.N.-implemented unjust blockade imposed on Iraq since August 1990.

'ALIF-BA' weekly quoted a health source as saying that 2.5 million Iraqi children, pregnant women and lactating mothers suffer from severe malnutrition owing to food and medicine shortages caused by the blockade.

The source confirmed that the monthly rate of low-birth weight registered by the health departments totalled 19.6 percent in January, 21.2 February, 19.2 in March, 19.8 in April, 21.3 in May, 22.2 in June, 19.4 in July and 21.5 in August.

The source attributed this to the poor nutritional status among pregnant women together with acute shortages of medicine and vaccines because of harsh circumstances of the blockade.

The blockade is the key source of the spread of contagious and communicable diseases because of acute dearth of necessary medicine, medical equipment and vaccines, the source stressed.

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Cabinet Votes To Reopen Cave of Patriarchs

Security Reinforced

TA0611120894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet has voted unanimously to reopen the Cave of the Patriarchs tomorrow on a trial basis with new security precautions. The cave has been closed since the Hebron massacre in late February. In Hebron itself, the area around the Cave of the Patriarchs has been closed off by the military. The move followed a general strike declared by the Islamic Jihad ahead of the decision to open the site to Jewish and Muslim worshipers starting tomorrow.

Although army reinforcements were brought in, there are no reports of incidents around the Cave of the Patriarchs. Muslim clerics were quoted as saying the new security arrangements hurt the Muslims and were part of a plot to turn the Cave of the Patriarchs into an exclusive Jewish place of prayer.

We now go now live to Jack Katzenell at the Prime Minister's Office:

[Katzenell] As you have probably heard by now, the cabinet decided unanimously to reopen the Cave of the Patriarchs tomorrow. In the initial stages, it will be on—how should I put it—a more modest scale. Only a maximum of 300 Jews and 300 Muslims will be allowed to pray in the Cave of the Patriarchs at any one time, and, of course, there will be a total separation between them, in accordance with the recommendations of the Shamgar commission. They will be separated not only inside the building but also outside in the yard. There will also be separation in terms of time in the sense that there will be 10 days in the year when the cave will be opened only to Jews or only to Arabs. These will be on certain Jewish festivals and certain Muslim festivals.

There will be a reinforced security unit. A company of the border police, again in accordance with the commission's recommendations, will be specially trained for this mission of maintaining order and security at the Cave of the Patriarchs. In the coming week, the experience of the first few days will be very, very carefully evaluated, and then if all goes well, it is hoped that the site will be opened on a permanent basis to both Jews and Muslims.

Hebron Mayor Objects to Prayer Rules

TA0611153894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah has objected to the new praying arrangements at the Cave of the Patriarchs because, as he put it, they change the Muslim character of the mosque. According to him, the security arrangements hurt Muslim worshipers and adversely affect business and economic life in the vicinity of the cave.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that al-Natshah toured the Cave of the Patriarchs accompanied by Muslim clerics and several local journalists. At the end of his tour, he said that Israel is violating its commitment following the Six-Day War not to interfere in religious matters at holy sites in the territories.

Our correspondent adds that the mayor of Hebron and local waqf officials recounted that in a meeting with the military governor of the Hebron area they were told that only 200 Jewish and 200 Muslim worshipers would be allowed to enter the cave in the initial stage, rather than the reported 300.

Cave of Patriarchs Reopens

TA0711060394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Tomb of the Patriarchs opened this morning for a two-day trial period. Dozens of Jewish worshipers have come to pray at the site, while only a handful of Muslims arrived. The army drafted extra troops to Hebron to safeguard against possible violence at the tomb, which had been closed since the massacre of Muslim worshipers by Barukh Goldstein in February. With more on the arrangements at the Tomb and on the controversy surrounding its reopening, Mark Weiss reports:

In the eight and a half months since the massacre committed by Barukh Goldstein, the security forces have carried out significant changes at the site and also altered prayer arrangements. Many of the changes were recommended by the Shamgar Commission that investigated the incident.

From now on, Muslims and Jews will enter the site via separate doors and pray in different halls: the Yitzhaq Hall for Muslims and the Avraham Hall for Jews. Worshipers will not be allowed to cross from one hall into the other. Separate prayer times will also operate most of the time. Each group will have 10 holy days each year when the whole of the cave will be open for their worshipers.

The security forces have a list of certain right-wing Jews who will not be allowed into the cave. No civilians will be allowed in with weapons. All guns are to be left with the security forces close to the entrance. Thorough body checks will be carried out on everyone approaching the cave, and then worshipers will pass through a magnetic gate. Fifteen closed-circuit cameras will operate around the clock and will be able to follow the movements of people at any place inside the building. Three companies of Border Police will be responsible for security at the site. [passage omitted]

Turkey's Ciller Holds Talks, Visits Orient House

Ciller, Peres Attend Breakfast

TA0511134794 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2110 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Zafer Kiraz video report in Israel]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Tansu Ciller this morning attended a breakfast hosted in her honor by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal was also present.

After the breakfast Peres replied to questions by Turkish reporters. He said that agreement was reached during the talks to conclude the work on agreements to prevent double taxation, to protect investments, and to establish free trade between the two countries by the end of this month. The sides also agreed to conduct joint feasibility studies regarding the supply of water from Turkey to Israel, Peres remarked, adding that the relevant organizations of the two countries will be assigned the task. Israel proposed that Turkey lead the security and cooperation conference envisaged for the Middle East, Peres announced. [passage omitted]

During the official talks held between the Turkish and Israeli delegations in Jerusalem, Turkey underlined the need for regional economic integration. The Turkish side stated that Turkey supports the Middle East peace process and is ready to exert every possible effort to this end. The Turkish delegation submitted proposals for concrete projects comprising cooperation in various fields. The proposals were accepted in principle by the Israeli authorities. Projects concerning regional fiber-optics, transportation of fresh produce, communications, and maritime and air transportation by private firms to Gulf countries were among the proposals submitted by Turkey. One of the more important topics raised by Turkey during the talks consisted of a commercial water project for the Middle East. Israeli officials were also interested in the proposal for Israel to complete and manage the currently unfinished tourist complexes in Turkey. The Turkish side also called on Israeli firms to invest in southeast Anatolia within the framework of GAP [Southeast Anatolia Project]. The sides also decided to cooperate in the struggle against terrorism. [passage omitted]

Ciller Meets Delegation at Orient House

TA0511202494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller visited Orient House in East Jerusalem and met with a Palestinian delegation headed by Faysal al-Husayni. After the meeting, the Turkish prime minister refused to speak with reporters. Al-Husayni said that the visit had great significance for the Palestinians because they considered it a confirmation of their right to East Jerusalem.

During the meeting, Palestinian security personnel refused to permit the Israeli security guards accompanying Ciller and the assembled news correspondents to enter the building.

The Likud, Tzomet, and Moledet factions demanded that the government immediately close down Orient House in Jerusalem following the incident which took place this evening during the Turkish prime minister's visit. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Likud Knesset Member [MK] Silvan Shalom said that the Israeli Government was once more capitulating to the Palestinians. Tzomet MK Pini Badash said that the Palestinians are constantly demonstrating that Jerusalem is their capital. Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi said that only the removal of Orient House from Jerusalem would prove the Israeli Government's intentions regarding Jerusalem.

Rabin on Regret Over Orient House Visit

TA0611063694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel issued only a brief reaction to Tansu Ciller's visit to Orient House yesterday, perhaps due to the fact that it does not want to harm what has been described as a successful visit by Ciller to Israel. Yesterday, after Ciller's visit to Orient House, Prime Minister Rabin had a very friendly conversation with the Turkish prime minister, or at least this was how the meeting was described by sources in Rabin's bureau. This indicates that even if the incident somewhat mars the visit, in no way does it sabotage it. Ciller's visit resulted in several agreements between the two countries. One of the most interesting of these agreements is a deal stipulating that Israel Aircraft Industries will refurbish the Turkish Air Force's Phantom jets, a deal worth hundreds of millions of dollars. This is just another reason why the visit has been defined as successful and why nobody wants to sabotage it.

The Orient House visit, however, does complicate things. Answering our queries, the prime minister's bureau expressed regret. The prime minister was quoted as saying that the Orient House visit will not harm bilateral relations but that Israel would surely have preferred not to have to issue such a reaction and would have also preferred that such a visit had not taken place.

Ciller Comments on Kurdish Problem

TA0611103294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Turkish Prime Minister Ciller left Israel last night after a three-day visit. At a joint news conference both she and Prime Minister Rabin said that they had held extremely useful talks and that important joint projects were being promoted. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Tansu Ciller why 15 million Kurds in Turkey were being denied the right to preserve and foster their own language and culture:

[Begin recording] [Ciller] First of all, I would like to respond by saying we do not have ethnic minorities in our country. We do not have them in the sense that they are all first-rank citizens and that they do not live in only

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a certain geography of my country. They are distributed all over. Whatever rights one citizen has the other also has—no less, no more.

[Katzenell] What is your reaction to the allegations by Amnesty International of human rights violations on a massive scale in the context of the Kurdish problem?

[Ciller] Everybody has free expression of their thoughts; everybody can be elected to the parliament; everybody can move anywhere they want to; they can invest anywhere they want to; and they can say anything on the 15 channels that are privatized in Turkey. We have one of the most free presses, free parliaments, free TV, and of course we have our problems as well.

[Katzenell] Do you seriously believe that this problem can be solved by purely military means?

[Ciller] One thing that I will not allow and that no other person in my country after me will ever allow, is for my country to be divided up. I will not allow that to be attained by terror, by killing people. The terrorists, PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan], are coming into the picture or into one region and are massacring people in the buses—Kurdish origin or Turkish origin—without discriminating. They are entering the villages and massacring without discrimination. This is not allowed. No way will that be allowed, because once you let that then the implication is that you can get what you want through bloodshed. [end recording]

The Turkish prime minister also said her country would sign a free trade agreement with Israel by the end of the year, and she suggested the whole Middle East should eventually become a free trade area or even a common market.

Shahal Said Critical of Ciller's Jerusalem Visit

TA0611190394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] At its weekly meeting in Jerusalem today, the cabinet was told that since the government's decision to crack down on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], 167 activists in the organization have been arrested. The crackdown began after last month's Tel Aviv bus bombing in which 22 people were killed. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also ratified the peace treaty with Jordan. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] [passage omitted] Turning to yesterday's surprise visit to Orient House by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, Prime Minister Rabin said Ciller had played a trick on him. Police Minister Moshe Shahal who was responsible for the visitor's safety, was also critical of her action.

[Shahal] The police are obliged to have responsibility for the security of official persons who are visiting Israel and this obligation means that we are not going to allow any detour or any unplanned visit to any place.

[Katzenell] If heaven forbid, something had gone wrong, Shahal said, the Israeli Government would have been held responsible. He was also critical of the Palestinian security guards who refused to allow the Israeli security escort to enter the building with Tansu Ciller.

The government has submitted legislation to enable it to clamp down on the quasi-governmental activities of the Palestinians in East Jerusalem, but it does not have a majority for the bill. This is because the Communists and the Arab Democratic Party, which support the government on the peace process, see the measure as anti-Palestinian. While the Likud and the other right-wing parties say it does not go far enough. An official source hinted that the tougher bill submitted by Likud Knesset Member Yehoshu'a Matza may be adopted instead, perhaps with some modifications. [passage omitted] [end recording]

No 'Uncoordinated' Visits in Future

TA0611142294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that in future, visiting dignitaries will be prevented from visiting Orient House without first coordinating with Israeli authorities.

Shahal told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that guards will be posted outside the building to prevent entries that have not been coordinated.

As for the statements made by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz who said Iraq was not in a confrontation with Israel, Shahal said that this signal should not be ignored. The minister nevertheless stressed that Israel's policy toward Iraq would be fully coordinated with the United States.

Peres Comments on Iraq, Ciller Visit, Hamas

TA0611090994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zissowitz] Mr. Peres, I want to open this interview with the statement by Iraq's foreign minister that Iraq has no confrontation with Israel. Were there any recent Iraqi attempts to forge a dialogue with Israel?

[Peres] There were no direct attempts. You know that occasionally messengers arrive, but this is not serious.

[Zissowitz] Will Israel agree to forge a dialogue with Iraq under certain conditions?

[Peres] Look, Iraq as a nation and the Iraqi people are not our enemies. We have a real problem, however, with

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Saddam Husayn. It is impossible to trust his words, promises, or positions. He bombed us during the Gulf War without any cause. How is it possible to trust such a person?

[Zissowitz] You said, however, that envoys on his behalf arrive here.

[Peres] I did not say this.

[Zissowitz] You said that occasionally messengers arrive.

[Peres] What I meant is that these are self-appointed messengers. There are no negotiations with Iraq. Look, we are not talking here about a correspondent traveling between Iraq and Israel and relaying his impressions to both sides. We have enough of this sort of information on every possible issue. There are no secret or indirect negotiations with Iraq, nor will there be such negotiations in the future.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Peres, turning to the Orient House incident: Has Israel made it clear to the Palestinians precisely what they are entitled to do at Orient House?

[Peres] Israel has made it very clear that anything related to the Gaza-Jericho agreement cannot be handled from Orient House, because this place has no political status and does not enjoy any sort of immunity.

[Zissowitz] Was the meeting with Turkey's prime minister conducted within the framework of our arrangements with the Palestinians?

[Peres] Certainly not. If, however, it was merely a courtesy call that had nothing to do with the Palestinian Authority then it is a different matter. Mrs. Ciller is entitled to visit Jerusalem just as she was entitled to visit Bat Yam. Orient House, however, has no formal status, nor will it have such status in the future.

[Zissowitz] You probably heard what the Palestinian security man told the Israeli security officer [referring to an earlier report that an Orient House security officer had told the Israeli security personnel who were accompanying Ciller that they had no jurisdiction in Orient House]....

[Peres, interrupting] He broke the law. The Palestinian security man has no status and is not entitled to say that it is his territory. Nobody has given him territory or authority.

[Zissowitz] Were the Israeli security men given any directives on how to act? Are you satisfied that a confrontation was averted by their avoiding entering the Orient House premises in compliance with the Palestinian security officer's demand?

[Peres] Look, I am not familiar with the details; I was not at the site, and it is hard for me to judge based on television and radio reports. It is clear, however, that security is the responsibility of our security men, and they can act in accordance with what is permitted by law.

[Zissowitz] Will Israel demand of Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues explanations about the nature of Orient House activities?

[Peres] I think so.

[Zissowitz] Do you believe the behavior of Turkey's prime minister conforms with diplomatic etiquette?

[Peres] Look, she is our guest, and I am not sure she is familiar with all these niceties [last word in English] and nuances. Seeing that this is a first visit of its kind we are much more forgiving about it.

[Zissowitz] Do you really believe she was unaware of the fact that the Palestinians would use this visit to demonstrate their sovereignty over East Jerusalem?

[Peres] I assume she was aware of this. I also assume she is interested in having good relations with the Palestinians as well as with us. I was not shocked by this visit,nor was I very surprised by it.

[Zissowitz] Another issue related to this is a statement made by Jordan's prime minister almost at the same time, namely that Jordan will transfer the Jerusalem mosques to the Palestinians on a silver platter, as he put it. How does this mesh with the agreement we signed with Jordan?

[Peres] Yes, it seems that he assumes we will hand over Jerusalem to the Palestinians one fine day. I think he made these remarks half-jokingly. We have no such intentions. Will the Palestinians conquer Jerusalem?

[Zissowitz] No, he meant Jordan will hand over the mosques to them in due time....

[Peres, interrupting] Not in due time, rather when Jerusalem is handed over to the Palestinians. Do you see such a thing happening? You know, somebody suggested we hand over the Temple Mount to the Arabs temporarily, until the coming of the Messiah.

[Zissowitz] Yesterday we heard two contradictory statements regarding Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] by the defense minister and the deputy defense minister. Does the government have one clear position regarding the possibility of a dialogue with Hamas?

[Peres] Look, so far Hamas has been speaking to us only in the language of guns. What sort of dialogue can be developed with guns? When fired on, one must return fire. Look, all this talk is based on wishful thinking. Hamas has taken a clear position against peace, against Israel, and in favor of terrorism. We are not talking about names, rather about content. As long as this is the content, the only dialogue, unfortunately, can be a violent one.

[Zissowitz] What happens if a proposal comes from the direction of Hamas activists, whether in Israel or in Jordan?

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[Peres] Look, if there is a proposal we will discuss it, but I do not see such a proposal, and I would not recommend that one create hypothetical expectations. I do not see Hamas abandoning its traditional positions and proposing to hold peace negotiations with Israel in the near future.

[Zissowitz] The Cave of the Patriarchs is reopening for Jewish and Arab prayer this week. Are there any new directives on this issue?

[Peres] The reopening process will be done very carefully and slowly, because we do not want to harm worshipers on any side and are anxious to prevent any clashes. When I was defense minister I dealt with this issue intensively. The options are very clear: You can either divide the cave itself or the prayer time. Any arrangement that does not provide for such a division could unfortunately end in clashes. The idea is to permit everybody to pray without permitting anybody to fight.

Beilin: Dialogue With Iraq Possible After Sanctions

TA0611055894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says if Iraq abides by the UN resolutions to allow for the removal of current international sanctions, Israel would not have to refrain from holding a dialogue with the authorities in Baghdad. The deputy foreign minister was responding to the published statement by Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, that his country is no longer in a state of confrontation with Israel. But despite Beilin's reaction, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is instructing Israeli embassies throughout the world to object to the removal of the sanctions and to support the continuation of the UN force serving in Iraq.

Rabin Said To Adopt Peres Stance on IDF Redeployment

TA0711095194 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has recently adopted the position held by the Foreign Ministry and Foreign Minister Peres that Israel should pursue the peace process with the Palestinians on the basis of the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement, despite the various difficulties, and that this should include the issue of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment outside the population centers. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq's position, according to which the redeployment should not be implemented at this stage because of security constraints, has been rejected. Several major generals who are involved in the political process support the foreign minister's position.

The prime minister will meet with the foreign minister, the chief of staff, and other senior officials today in anticipation of Rabin and Peres' meeting tomorrow with Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint. At today's meeting, the positions Israel will present during tomorrow's meeting will be determined.

Even though the prime minister has accepted the position that Israel must honor its commitment to redeploy outside the population centers, it appears that the redeployment will be implemented only gradually. Initially, the IDF will withdraw from the less problematic cities, and only at the end of the process will the IDF redeploy outside Hebron.

In tomorrow's meeting at the Erez checkpoint, Israel and the Palestinians will raise a series of problematic issues. Israel will especially emphasize the issues of security, antiterror measures, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and repeated violations by senior PLO officials of the agreements and understandings regarding Jerusalem (Orient House). The Palestinians will raise the issues of the closure and the continuation of the peace process, including the IDF withdrawal from population centers and elections to the autonomy institutions.

Expansion of Golan Talks Reportedly Agreed Upon

TA0611111594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Nov 94 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Syria have agreed to expand their negotiations and to have open, detailed discussions on security arrangements on the Golan Heights, which are to be instituted within the framework of a peace treaty. Political sources said yesterday that "in the very near future" senior military experts from both sides will join the peace talks being conducted in Washington by Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador Walid Mu'allim.

The political sources said that Syrian and Israeli leaders have reached the conclusion that sufficient progress has been made in the negotiations and in the development of the principles of a peace accord and of the foundations of a security regime, such that the time has now come to open talks on the details at the expert level. The political sources said that each side will send one or two senior officers. The Israeli candidates are outgoing Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and Major Generals 'Uzi Dayan, Uri Sagi, and Dani Yatom.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will decide in the coming days who will represent Israel. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will appoint a Syrian Army general to the talks. The opening of the deliberations on security arrangements with Israel was discussed in recent weeks among Syria, Israel, and the United States and was finalized during U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Damascus and Jerusalem 10 days ago.

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The Syrian position became more flexible on two issues during Clinton's visit: the timetable for implementing the arrangement and the level of normalization at the conclusion of the initial withdrawal. Al-Asad agreed on having the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan last 16 months. Prior to Clinton's visit, the Syrians demanded that the withdrawal be completed within a year. Israel demanded that the pullback be spread out over four years and nine months, in three stages.

Regarding normalization, al-Asad agreed to take various symbolic steps following the first stage, but he is not prepared for diplomatic relations and the opening of embassies, as Israel is demanding. Rabin will discuss with Clinton the negotiations with Syria in their White House meeting on 21 November. Several days later, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will hold another round of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Damascus.

The outcome of Clinton's visit to Damascus aroused concern in Britain. According to a report that reached Jerusalem, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told a closed meeting a few days ago that he was surprised by Syria's sluggishness and expressed concern that Syria might remain outside the region's peace circle. It was also reported that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi met yesterday with al-Asad in Damascus. He received from al-Asad a report on Clinton's visit and discussed the possibility of Lebanese-Israeli negotiations.

Rabinovich: Report on Talks With Syria 'Speculation'

TA0611185994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington, by Razi Barqay, Ya'el Qovetz, and political correspondent Udi Segal; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Barqay] Good evening Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria.

[Rabinovich] Good evening.

[Qovetz] Can you confirm that military officers will indeed join the negotiating teams?

[Rabinovich] No, I think this report is mere speculation and there is nothing to confirm.

[Qovetz] The question is whether the negotiations are really making progress and if there is a feeling that it is now time to start discussing details.

[Rabinovich] In our view, the progress made in the negotiations has been too slow. The talks also deal with details. We have been discussing the security arrangements, albeit not in detail, for quite some time.

[Qovetz] Are Israel's complaints limited to the slow rate of progress or do they also pertain to substantive issues? Are the gaps between our respective positions still wide?

[Rabinovich] I would not present them as complaints. The talks are being conducted at a slow pace which is mainly the result of the Syrians' negotiating style. As for substance, we clearly continue to disagree on substantive issues; however, there is no question here of complaints. Negotiations are being held. We want to give the talks the greatest chance for success and are conducting them in a very serious fashion. I know that the Syrians are also serious, although their viewpoint with regard to both substance and negotiating style, as reflected in the pace of developments, is very different from ours.

[Segal] Ambassador Rabinovich, you keep on describing the negotiations as one package. However, one can separate the various components and say—at least according to reports that have reached Israel—that agreement in principle has been reached on the issue of security arrangements. So can we not discuss the details at least with regard to this issue?

[Rabinovich] Look, there are all kinds of reports. To my regret, no agreement in principle has been reached on security arrangements. I think that both the Syrians and us realize that this constitutes an especially important component of the package. We agreed long ago on several fundamental principles of the security regime but remain divided on other principles. Therefore, to my regret, we have still not reached an agreement in principle.

[Barqay] Ambassador Rabinovich, in the course of your protracted negotiations with the Syrians, did you ever say that Israel had no claims with regard to sovereignty on the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] No.

[Barqay] I am asking this because I assume that officials in Washington have also received telegrams quoting a British newspaper which reports that Clinton told al-Asad that Rabin had informed him that Israel had no claims to sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Does this sentence sound familiar?

[Rabinovich] No, I read the report about the report, and although it appears in a respected British newspaper....

[Barqay, interrupting] THE SUNDAY TIMES I believe.

[Rabinovich] Yes, but I was present at the meeting between President Clinton and the prime minister. No such statement was made, and this— just like other details in that report—are completely baseless. It is not the only detail in the report by THE SUNDAY TIMES that is not accurate or correct.

[Barqay] Perhaps Rabin said this to Clinton tete-a-tete when you were not present?

[Rabinovich] Perhaps, however, I believe that the fact that other details in the report were either incorrect or imprecise, bespeaks the accuracy of reporting on that particular point.

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[Qovetz] The report also stated that President Clinton would visit the region before Christmas to wrap up the final details.

[Rabinovich] There you are. That point is also incorrect. We are expecting a visit by the secretary of state at the end of November or the beginning of December. A visit by President Clinton in the near future was not discussed and is not on the agenda. That part of the report is also wrong.

[Barqay] Judging from your acquaintance with the prime minister, do you believe that he has reached a decision to give up the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] I do not consider myself a psychic and cannot read the prime minister's mind.

[Barqay] Thank you very much, Itamar Rabinovich.

Diplomatic Ties With Oman To Be Announced

NC0611163694 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 6 (AFP)—Israel and the Gulf sultanate of Oman will shortly announce the opening of interest sections, the first step towards full diplomatic relations, officials said Sunday [6 November].

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin flies to Muscat on Monday, said the officials who refused to be named. The announcement could come as early as Monday.

Oman will thus be the first Arab state in the Gulf to establish ties with the Jewish state.

The foreign ministry refused to confirm the report.

Morocco has agreed to open a liaison bureau in Tel Aviv, which is a step higher on the diplomatic scale, while Israel has a similar bureau in Rabat.

Tunisia has also agreed to open an interest section in the Belgian embassy in Tel Aviv.

The sultanate was the sole Arab country which did not sever relations with Egypt in 1979 when Cairo signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Israel is also looking to open relations with Bahrain and Qatar in the near future on the back of the September 1993 autonomy agreement with the Palestinians and the October 26 peace treaty with Jordan.

In Muscat, a senior Omani foreign ministry official Sunday confirmed that Beilin would visit Oman Monday.

Beilin will meet Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, the official said, without disclosing the purpose of the visit.

It will be Beilin's second visit to Oman. On an unprecedented trip in April he led an Israeli delegation to a session of multilateral Middle East negotiations on water resources.

On Thursday Omani Trade Minister Maqbul Bin-Sultan denied Israeli reports that Muscat had decided to establish official relations with the Jewish state, starting with the opening of interest sections.

Beilin To Visit Oman, Discuss Ties

LD0611204994 Jerusalem Qol Yisrael in English 2000 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin will visit the Gulf state of Oman tomorrow [7 November]. Beilin is scheduled to hold talks with the Sultanate's foreign minister, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi [minister of state for foreign affairs] on bilateral relations. Sources in Jerusalem say the aim of the visit is to reach agreement on the exchange of interest sections between Israel and Oman. Beilin visited Muscat in April at the head of an Israeli delegation to multilateral talks on water.

Gur Comments on Possible 'Dialogue' With Hamas

TA0511133694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur does not rule out a dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], if its leaders are elected to the Palestinian Administration Council.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Gur said that Israel will not interfere with Palestinian elections but the security aspects must be discussed in detail with the PLO before they are held.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 5 November adds that "Gur noted that Israel would not interfere with Palestinian elections but was opposed to turning the autonomy council into a legislative body. Gur asserted that this was the main stumbling block in the talks with the Palestinians. The deputy defense minister was reacting to statements made by two Palestinian leaders who demanded that Israel fully implement the Oslo agreement and redeploy its military forces in Judaea and Samaria prior to the elections."]

The Likud faction said Labor's readiness to negotiate with Hamas is a confession of the failure of government policy, and both the PLO and Israel are submitting to Hamas terror. The Tzomet party expressed similar sentiments.

Rabin: 'Miracle' Needed Before Hamas Dialogue

TA0511190194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Naftali Ben-Simon video report]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this evening that nothing has changed in Israel's position which rejects any negotiations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. This evening our correspondent Naftali Ben-Simon asked Mr. Rabin whether there had been any change in Israel's readiness to negotiate with Hamas in the wake of statements made by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur this morning.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Simon] More and more ministers and deputy ministers are coming out in favor of negotiations with Hamas under certain conditions. What is your position? Do you still catagorically reject any dialogue with Hamas?

[Rabin] My position is unequivocal. Hamas and Islamic Jihad are currently the enemies of peace and murderers of Israelis. They indiscriminately murdered civilians on the Jerusalem promenade, on the bus in Tel Aviv, and in the course of kidnapping soldiers for bargaining purposes. As long as this is their policy—and I see no sign of a change—our main goal is to prevent them from murdering peace by demontrating our resolute intention to fight them. We will fight them with all the means at our disposal and are within the law. If a miracle happens and they decide to halt terrorist activities, recognize the State of Israel, and cease aspiring to harm Jews only because they are Jews— when this miracle occurs ask me again. [end recording]

Peres, UN's Larsen, Frayj on Regional Development

TA0711111794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres warned Syria last night that the government will not wait for President Hafiz al-Asad to agree to a peace accord with Israel before pursuing its plans for regional economic development.

"We seriously want peace," Peres told the Jerusalem Business Conference. "It's needed. It's inevitable. But for heaven's sake, we will not wait for them.

"Should we wait 17 more years for al-Asad until he follows (Egyptian President Anwar) al-Sadat?" he asked, referring to the visit of the late Egyptian leader to Jerusalem.

Peres said Israel intends to forge ahead with cooperation with its Arab neighbors and other countries in the region, even without Syria. He said the government would not waste the next two years waiting for al-Asad, terming that period a ripe one for economic opportunity.

UN undersecretary-general Terry Larsen was not as upbeat over the future of the region. He warned that the entire peace process could unravel unless the Palestinian Authority began rapid development.

Larsen, who was instrumental in arranging the secret Israel-PLO talks in Oslo in 1993, said the economic situation in Gaza is more grave than most officials realize.

"Gaza is looking a little brighter and a bit cleaner but that's it," he said. "If there are no visible results, this will ignite more terror and more violence. It may tilt any day now if we don't push the economy."

Larsen said the Palestinians are without infrastructure or even an administration that can provide basic services. He said this includes the institution of laws and regulations, without which no businessman would consider making an investment.

The Palestinian Tourism Minister, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, appeared to agree. He spent much of his address to leading tourism developers pleading for a relaxation of Israeli restrictions on the entry of Palestinian laborers.

Frayj also warned of a return to violence unless Palestinians feel they are reaping what he termed "the fruits of peace."

Al-'Abid's Death 'Bodes Ill' for Autonomy

TA0411150794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 p B3

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Bad Landmark"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has remained silent about allegations that it was involved in the assassination of Hani al-'Abid, a senior Islamic Jihad member in the Gaza Strip, who was killed in Khan Yunus when his booby-trapped car exploded. He was no saint, and he did not just edit the organization's newspaper; he headed the Islamic Jihad's military arm in the Gaza Strip. He had an extensive record, including responsibility for the attack at the Erez checkpoint in which two reservists were killed.

Israel was not the only one that had a score to settle with him. Nevertheless, the accusing finger was pointed at Israel alone, although no evidence of its involvement was found on the scene. Many believe that Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad immediately after the bus explosion in Tel Aviv suffices to incriminate Israel.

Whoever the assassin may be, this event clearly is a new landmark that does not bode well for the future of the Palestinian autonomy.

If it was not Israel that booby-trapped al-'Abid's car, that means that a war among various organizations and gangs has begun in the Gaza Strip. To date, armed people have roamed the streets, but Yasir 'Arafat has not dared disarm the Islamic Jihad and Hamas' military arms. Today they booby-trap cars, and tomorrow they may set off car bombs, as they did in Beirut.

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If Israel did it, as Palestinian spokesmen contend, then clearly 2 November 1994 will be remembered as the day on which a reprisal was carried out for the first time within the boundaries of the Palestinian entity. If so, this will also be the day on which Israel signaled that it had run out of patience with acts of terror by Palestinians against Israeli citizens.

Of course, this bodes ill for the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians seeing that it is a sign that as far as terror is concerned Israel still perceives its relations with the Palestinian entity as a failure. Therefore, this warning is aimed not just at the terrorists but also at the Palestinian entity that undertook to fight terror. Such a warning need not be issued as an official declaration. An explosion is stronger than 1,000 declarations.

Some will probably say that Israel is going back to the 1950's when it staged reprisals in the Gaza Strip in a bid to eliminate Palestinian terror (which was then initiated and sponsored by Egypt). However, a comparison between the 1950's and what happened two days ago in the Gaza Strip is irrelevant. The fundamental difference is that this is happening at a time when we are in the midst of a peace process between Israel and the official Palestinian leadership that controls the Gaza Strip and Jericho; it is happening a year after Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo agreement and decided to eradicate terror and violence. Even so, 91 Israelis have been killed in acts of terror since the handshake between Rabin and 'Arafat on the White House lawn. Where is the nation, country, and leader that can put up with that? Israel demanded that the Palestinians to do more to extirpate terror before it jeopardizes the entire peace process and also cautioned and threatened.

Some say that pouring $1 billion into the Gaza Strip will help eradicate terror. If only $0.5 billion is poured into it will the terrorists blow up only half the buses they planned to blow up? This is not just an economic problem. The economic situation in East Jerusalem is not as dire as it is in the Gaza Strip. Yet there are 2,500 Hamas activists there, and some of the most ruthless assassins have come from there.

'Arafat must be helped to put the Palestinian entity on its feet. The agreement with the PLO was the key to the entire change in the region, including the peace with Jordan. However, 'Arafat must first of all act with all his might against the terror of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. He does not have to crack down on their mosques or political movements but only on those who choose the path of terror. This does not mean a Palestinian civil war, which would not benefit Israel either. Nevertheless, if 'Arafat takes his time the radical organizations will ultimately turn against him. Then the warning of Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian forces who said the Palestinians must choose between law and order or anarchy in their entity, will come true. In any event, 'Arafat will realize that Israel will not put up with attacks on its citizens.

Meanwhile, it is clear that if the terror continues Israel's willingness to make a more tangible step during the interim period, following the handing over of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, will be adversely affected. Some already wonder: If 'Arafat is having a hard time operating against terror in the Gaza Strip, how will he do it when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeploys in the West Bank, where thousands of Israelis live?

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Al-Majali Views Treaty With Israel, Gulf Ties

JN0611152494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is a document that will make, not enter, history because it fully restored Jordan's rights. He said there has to be a change in the economic field—a change all the people will feel when their standard of living is raised to an acceptable level. This cannot be done by distributing money to people but by setting up domestic investment projects. He noted that such investment will provide opportunities to combat poverty and unemployment and will raise the standard of living. Dr. al-Majali also expressed his belief that military support is on its way to Jordan. He explained that material support for Jordan will come by exempting it from its debts and by studying many projects, either directly with the U.S. Government or with concerned international organizations.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the prime minister said: We always extend our hands to our brothers for the sake of harmony and for the sake of our common future. We will determine our fate when we agree and become partners. Nothing will be imposed on us unless we see that it serves our interest. We previously proposed the idea of forgetting our differences or, in economic terms, of rescheduling these differences. Al-Majali said: Praise be to God, we received a response from the brothers in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Moreover, relations with the Kuwaiti brothers have become more cordial, even at international meetings.

Addresses House on Peace Treaty

JN0611190794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1436 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to the House of Representatives in response to deputies' remarks on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, in Amman on 6 November, broadcast in progress—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The [Jordanian] Government has attentively and open-mindedly listened [to the remarks of deputies]. It was grateful to those who agreed with it, praised those who expressed a different opinion, and appreciated the great responsibility resulting from this [treaty] law.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the head of the [House] Foreign Relations Committee [FRC] and Rts rapporteur and members for their genuine efforts, continued offering, and brilliant ideas in their deliberations and also for the comprehensive report they have submitted. This report deserves to be a genuine historic document which is true to itself and to its country and nation. [passage omitted]

Your Excellency the Speaker, esteemed deputies: I listened to all your opinions. Despite my conviction that the FRC's detailed report has answered all questions posed and that the government approves this report, I find myself duty-bound to answer some basic points raised by some House members.

We heard some accusing Jordan of ignoring the political aspect of the issues of refugees and displaced persons, and that Jordan was content with their living rights. Some have also said that Jordan placed a clear article in the joint agenda on displaced persons and refugees but abandoned this article in the treaty.

I noticed that some mix up the refugee issue with the displaced persons issue. The quadrilateral committee mentioned in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles will not discuss the principle of repatriation of the displaced persons. It will only discuss the means and ways that will be agreed in order to organize their repatriation. As for the refugee issue, it will be discussed from all its aspects and all its terms of reference on a bilateral level between Jordan and Israel, and also on a trilateral level between Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority, and Israel in the final phase. This issue will also remain on the agenda of the refugee group in the multilateral negotiations.

The [Jordanian] Government has frequently asserted, and still asserts, that it views the refugee issue as a major pivot in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan alone, however, cannot assume the responsibility of reaching a solution with Israel on this serious issue unless there is full agreement with the PLO first. The Government believed that the esteemed House of Representatives would appreciate this position, especially since only one-fourth of the four million Palestinian refugees live in Jordan, whereas the remainder live in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank, and other world states.

We have not abandoned this issue. We in Jordan are aware that this issue is important. I remind you of what His Majesty King Husayn said after the Washington Declaration when he answered a question posed by a journalist. The king wondered: By God, how can we distinguish between one who is a refugee and another who is not on the streets of Amman, and how can the Government address the problems of unemployment and poverty in Jordan based on this discrimination? We are here as one cohesive people during bad and good times. By focusing on the humanitarian aspect, we want to protect the Palestinian refugee's rights to a decent life anywhere he may be and without any discrimination.

As for the views by some that inserting the word settling [of Palestinians] in Paragraph 2 C of Article 8 of the [Jordanian-Israeli] treaty means that we have relinquished the refugees' rights and accepted the principle of settling them—these people even said that this means an alternative homeland [for the Palestinians]—this logic reminds me of the one who tries to build a pyramid with its top pointed down.

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As was explained by the Government's representatives in the FRC's deliberations, the word settling was accurately and carefully chosen. This is because the word which we should have feared is resettling. In our official concept, settling means preserving the [Palestinians'] right to return to the original homeland. What scares me in this context is the fact that some may interpret the word settling in the same way desired by Israel. However, Israel could not obtain such an interpretation from the Jordanian negotiator.

It is regrettable that many interpretations of some legal expressions in the treaty were made by some opponents in order to emphasize their positions that reject the treaty. This has prompted these opponents to inadvertently adopt the Israeli position. Thus, I would like to officially reiterate that any definition or interpretation of any expression or concept in this treaty conflicting with the interpretation mentioned in the FRC's report will be rejected by this government. This is because I do not want any Israeli official to say one day that the interpretation of these expressions is identical with the positions of some Jordanian deputies, so he may request commitments from us based on this interpretation. I thus stress my rejection of the interpretations adopted by some to enhance their argument. These people do not know that doing so will undermine the Jordanian interest. I am not accusing anyone, but duty and honesty require that I should announce this in public.

Some esteemed deputies discussed the concept of security in the treaty. In the paragraphs of the article on security, they read something suggesting that Jordan has agreed to depart from its nation and also to nullify all Arab military, security, economic, social, and other agreements and treaties. Naturally, I do not deny that some politicians in Israel wish that Jordan would detach itself from its nation. However, the stipulations of the treaty in this regard do not imply so at all. The only thing banned by this treaty is military and security alliances that will be tantamount to the declaration of war or threatening to wage war. The treaty does not at all deny Jordan's right in the event of self-defense. This is stressed by Article 25 of the treaty. This article is based on the UN charter.

Why do some people think that a just peace will remove our strength and scatter our capabilities and that we will become a field dominated by Israel, as if we did not exist, and as if we were weightless and powerless? Peace will give us a better opportunity, after we experienced war for one-half a century, so we can gather our strength, develop our communities, build our systems, and appropriately prepare ourselves for facing the future challenges of building the man, consolidating the strength, and emphasizing the identity. [passage omitted]

This is our concept of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. This peace does not relinquish our nation's rights to Jerusalem, the rights of the refugees, or the right of any Arab state, no matter how small this right may be. It is the peace of dignity and foresight, and not a peace viewed from a narrow angle.

We in Jordan were used to the fact that some encroached upon our rights to take our own national positions. However, they often adopted our position, although too late. We also used to remain silent about unfairness and injustice, out of our belief that justice will always have the upper hand. We, however, will not remain silent on abuses regardless of their source. One who resorts to abuses will obtain a reciprocal treatment. We will also attentively safeguard Jordan's security and stability, so it will continue to be the homeland of freedom, democracy, pluralism, and human rights as well as a model, regardless of the insinuations by some. We have achieved an honorable and just peace, and we mean what we are saying. [passage omitted]

Deputies' Speeches in Treaty Debate Reported

JN0611101794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 94 p 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In its first full debate of the Jordan-Israel treaty, the Lower House of Parliament yesterday listened to speeches by 27 deputies. Following is a report summarising those speeches.

'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali (al-Karak), who spoke on behalf of the 16-member National Action Parliamentary Bloc, voiced support for the peace treaty with Israel and stressed that the treaty was a strictly Jordanian option.

This option was taken in order to safeguard the higher national interests and the treaty was a tool for Jordan to secure its usurped rights, Mr. al-Majali said.

"The Jordanian people were not in a position to delay the peace treaty further because delay means further sufferings and could lead nowhere," he added.

Mr. al-Majali explained that Jordan had offered an umbrella for the Palestinians enabling them to take part in the Madrid conference and later to take up their own course to reach agreements with Israel in Oslo. The Palestinian decision was taken freely and they are now on the way of regaining their rights, he added.

"At the same time we will continue to back the Palestinian endeavors. Now with the treaty ensuring our rights back and ending all threats posed to the Kingdom, we are in a stronger position to extend backing to the Palestinians," he said.

Coordination among Arab parties, Mr. al-Majali said, did not exist and Jordan had to opt for a way out of the difficult situation and rescue itself.

He questioned the reason behind those who felt angry over the treaty. Are they unhappy because "we have been rescued or because we want our water rights back or because we have regained our occupied land and ended the siege on Jordan and breathed life in our economy?" He asked.

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Defending the treaty as being part of an overall settlement, Mr. al-Majali said that by regaining "our rights in land and water resources we are regaining the rights of the whole Arab Nation."

If Jordan has now reached the end of the track, it hopes that the other parties will follow suit and attain their rights in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, he said.

Referring to those groups which express fear for the future, Mr. al-Majali said there was no fear that Arab culture would disintegrate. He said that all parties should join hands and face the coming stage.

He said Islam did not come to wage wars and threaten other people's lives but came with a mission to be spread around the world.

Criticising those who who had always supported the regime and its policies for their rejection of the treaty, Mr. al-Majali said that the time has come for all citizens to join hands and work with "pure minds and clear conscience to serve the nation."

Abu al-Raghib (Amman)

Mr. Abu al-Raghib, who spoke on behalf of the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, said: "Today is a day like no other, a day that will have a great significance in the history of Jordan and the whole region, a day in which we face a dangerous turning point and therefore requires from us a high degree of vigilance and feeling of responsibility."

"The case before us today," said Mr. Abu-al-Raghib, "places us face to face with a major challenge in that we have a choice whether to remain dreaming and waiting for the unknown, giving no attention to regional and international developments or whether we become realistic and aspiring for a better future with all that it entails of hard work, planning and construction to ensure better life for our people."

"We view the peace treaty not as a panacea healing all ills; nor do we consider it to be fully satisfactory. But in my view it is balanced to a reasonable degree because it has secured the return of our lands and other rights and put an end to aggression and expansionist designs," Mr. Abu-al-Raghib said.

"We will continue to aspire to the day when genuine just and comprehensive peace will prevail in the whole region and we will pursue efforts to see an end to Israeli occupation of our land and the Palestinians regaining their independent state in Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital," he said. "We will continue to back all efforts aimed at the restoration of Palestinian refugees rights in their own homeland."

"In my view there can be no genuine peace unless it involves the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and ensures their full sovereign rights," he added.

"The present stage requires from people to pool their national efforts to achieve socio-economic development and improve the living conditions in a just and balanced manner," he said.

"In light of the regional competition expected in the coming era of peace we are in a need of courageous and frank revision of our administrative system with a view to raising its efficiency and we need a national programme to serve the country in the peace era marked with openness on the part of the executive authorities to the Jordanian public.

On behalf of the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, I declare approval of the draft law on the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and support the Foreign Affairs Committee's report and recommendations in this respect."

Muhammad 'Awdah Injad (Southern Bedouins)

The best ending to war or conflict is peace; and Jordan, through signing the peace treaty with Israel, has arrived at peace and secured its rights, said Mr. Injad.

"I bless the treaty and wholeheartedly support His Majesty King Husayn's steps and those of the government in accomplishing this major achievement for the Kingdom," he said.

Referring to Palestine, Mr. Injad said Jordan has more than any other Arab country extended help to the Palestinians, and therefore "we cannot allow any one to try to outbid us in this respect or to tamper with our principled stands."

We all should stand in the same trench and speak one language aimed at handling our own affairs with dialogue and with constructive means, Mr. Injad said.

Miflih al-Lawzi (Amman al-Jubaylah)

The peace treaty with Israel was a natural result of the Madrid conference and the negotiations which preceded the signing of the treaty came with full authorization from the Jordanian people said Mr. al-Lawzi.

Both the National Charter and Parliament have approved of Jordan's steps towards reaching peace with Israel and authorized the government to pursue efforts to attain that goal, he said.

"Therefore this treaty is a natural outcome of the series of developments and a good result achieved in the midst of regional and international circumstances," he added.

Ibrahim Samarah al-Zu'bi (al-Ramtha and Bani Kananah)

Mr. Samarah spoke on behalf of Arif al-Batayinah, 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, Jamal al-Khurayshah, Nawwaf al-Qadi, Muhammad Injad, Salim al-Zawayidah and Khalid al-'Ajarimah.

The peace treaty has enhanced Jordan's national identity by asserting the Kingdom's geographic boundaries and

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returned the lost lands and water resources," Mr. al-Zu'bi said. "Furthermore, the treaty has retained and respected Jordan's historic rights in Jerusalem's holy places.

"Having examined all the articles of the treaty, I declare my full backing of it and to King Husayn's steps towards peace."

Fawwaz al-Zu'bi—(al-Ramtha)

Mr al-Zu'bi defended the peace treaty saying the Kingom did not compromise on any of its rights. "Jordan has paid a heavy price all the past years for adopting pan-Arab stands," Mr. al-Zu'bi said. The country had only reaped a siege of its economy and political isolation, he added.

Noting that the Palestinians chose their way and are pursuing their own path, Mr. al-Zu'bi said that in the face of the situation Jordan found in the peace treaty a way out of the present predicament as it ensured the return of all Jordanian rights.

Following the Palestinians option to follow a separate path, Jordan found itself politically isolated and realised that many things were going on behind the scene and that proposed solutions could be adopted at the Kingdom's expense," he said.

Some had wanted Jordan to serve as a mere pressure card but not assuming a meaningful role while others had wanted to see the end of this country," he added.

"All these have motivated Jordan to follow the path of peace and conclude the treaty which ensures the return of all its rights," he said.

Through this treaty, he said, Jordan has succeeded in putting an end to Israel's expansionist designs and ended the plot which aimed at creating from Jordan a substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

The fact that Israeli farmlands still exist on Jordanian territory does not mean that Jordan's rights are compromised, he said, noting that Jordanians own lands in neighbouring Arab states and they have to obtain permits to cultivate them and that other Arab nationals own land in Jordan and they continue to develop their property.

Through this treaty Jordan has opened the door for investments in the country and for economic projects which means more trade with the world, more tourism and an end of sufferings for many people, he said.

"I hereby declare my full support for the treaty," he concludes.

"This treaty came as a fruit of national efforts exerted by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and therefore it deserves support and appreciation from all honourable people in Jordan," Mr. al-Ruhayni said. He said he expected the treaty to open the way for Jordan to receive international economic assistance and an end to the people's sufferings.

Ahmad al-Kasasibah (al-Karak) (Islamist)

The treaty can only be described as one facet of Israel's hostile acts against the nation and a new form of struggle for destiny between the Arabs and the Jews, Mr. al-Kasasibah said.

Charging that the treaty would end Jordan's ties with other Arab and Muslim countries, he said it would also deny Jordan its other legitimate rights and these of the Arab and Muslim people. He said that the treaty was a violation of the first article of the Jordanian Constitution which states that Jerusalem and the West Bank are part of Jordanian territory and cannot be ceded to Israel.

Referring to article eight of the treaty, Mr. al-Kasasibah said that it provides for the Palestinians to be settled in lands other than Palestine.

He said Israel was preparing to brainwash future Arab generations making plans to employ Arab youth as labourers for Israel's benefit. He demanded that Parliament condemn the treaty.

Hammad Abu-Jamus (Amman—Marka)

Voicing support for the treaty, Mr. Abu-Jamus said that for the first time in its history Israel recognises its borders with Jordan. "This is a great achievement and gain for Jordan supported by the United States, the mightiest power on earth," he said. "By scrutinising the different articles of the treaty one can see that it ensured the rights of Jordan in land and water and secured its boundaries," he added. At the same time the treaty did not infringe on the Palestinian people's rights, Mr. Abu-Jamus said.

Not only did the treaty bury Israel's old concept of creating a substitute Palestinian homeland in Jordan but also reaffirmed the Kingdom's sovereignty and opened the door for the Kingdom to play a leading role in the region, said the deputy.

Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani (Amman) (Islamist)

Dr. al-Kilani demanded that Parliament reject the peace treaty with Israel. He quoted the Holy Koran as banning Muslims from concluding peace with the usurpers of Arab territory, and merging Israel's economy with that of the Arab and Muslim economies.

Citing historian Toynbi, Dr. al-Kilani said Israel subsists on two pillars—divisions of Arab countries and foreign assistance.

He predicted that the Arabs would not remain divided and the foreign assistance to Israel would not last.

Dr. al-Kilani considered the treaty with Israel as marking the beginning of the history of the Jewish state.

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Dr. al-Kilani accused the government of violating pan-Arab and Islamic principles and said that by concluding the agreement the government said that it has restored Jordan's rights in land and water but this is a very narrow-minded regional outlook, he said.

He said Jordan should not view the situation from the point of view of the Sykes-Picot treaty.

The treaty had been concluded while the Arabs are at total disarray and divided Dr. al-Kilani said. The treaty benefits the enemy alone and overlooks Arab and Islamic rights in holy Jerusalem.

He also criticised the treaty for providing for joint security and for combating terrorism and for "depriving the refugees of the right to return to their homeland."

Nadir al-Zuhayrat (al-Qurah)

Voicing support for the peace treaty, Mr. al-Zuhayrat said that had it not been for the wise leadership of King Husayn Jordan could not have reached this stage and regained all its rights.

Speaking in his name and on behalf of Tawfiq Kurayshan, 'Ali al- Shatti, Muhammad Huwaymil and Salim al-Zuwayidah, Mr. al-Zuhayrat said the treaty does not in any manner impinge on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. Nor does it cause damage to Jordan's relations with the other Arab countries, he said.

Stressing that Jordan does not condone acts of terrorism, Mr. al-Zuhayrat said the Kingdom supports the rights of all groups to express their free opinion. But he said that Israel should also abide by all international treaties, including a ban on the use of mass destruction weapons.

"We share in the fear of economic relations with Israel in view of the fact that Israel is much more advanced than Jordan in technical and economic fields and we fear that Israel will impose its hegemony on the Jordanian economy. Therefore we should take measures to protect the national economy when concluding any economic agreement with Israel," he said.

The government should exert all its efforts to ensure the return of the refugees to their Palestinian lands in line with U.N. resolutions, he said. "We refuse to see Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital and we demand that the Holy City be returned in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and we demand that Israel continue to respect Jordan's role in the holy places," he said.

Further on Peace Treaty Debate

JN0611091494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Saturday [5 November] began its debate of the peace treaty with Israel in a marathon session that is expected to end today with the endorsement of the treaty by the majority of lawmakers.

Twenty-seven out of 53 deputies who requested the floor addressed the House yesterday with the majority of them expressing support for the treaty and two parliamentary blocs announcing that they will vote for endorsing it.

Opponents of the treaty, however, also made their stand known during the session even though they admitted that they will not be able to block the ratification of the accord which is expected to pass with 55-59 votes in the 80-strong House.

The session started amidst strict security measures. Paramilitary troops were stationed on the major roads leading to Parliament. According to Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the government had received "information" which made these measures necessary.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House had recommended that the House endorse the treaty as the "best" accord the Kingdom could have reached in light of what is "possible and realistic."

The committee, which is headed by prominent centrist Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and includes representatives of all parliamentary blocs, said the treaty allows Jordan to regain all its rights in land and water and falls in line with the basic principles upon which the Kingdom entered the peace talks with Israel in Madrid in 1991.

But three of the 23-member committee opposed its recommendation on the basis of what they termed as ideological and realistic considerations.

The three Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies, Hamzah Mansur, Bassam al-'Umush and Muhammad al-Hajj, also rejected the committee's assertion that the treaty will lead to the return of all Jordanian rights.

"The treaty has ceded Arab and Islamic land...four fifths of the land of Palestine" because the peace talks were based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, said Mr. Mansur, spokesman of the IAF's 17-member bloc.

Mr. Mansur said he also rejects the treaty because it recognises the right of Israel to exist in Palestine, it allows for diplomatic relations between the Kingdom and Israel, puts Jordan in a strategic alliance with the Jewish state and does not lead to the recovery of all the Kingdom's rights in water.

The Islamist deputy, whose speech was interrupted more than once by people in the galleries who hailed the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, also blasted the treaty for calling for the elimination of any "aggressive and discriminatory" references in Jordanian and Israeli legislation, saying that this is a prelude for changing school curricula to rewrite the history of the struggle with Israel.

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Though echoing the position of Mr. Mansur, IAF Deputy al'Umush stressed that the IAF opposition to the treaty is predicated on its concern for the country and its future.

Referring to the history of the Islamic movement in Jordan, Dr. al-'Umush said the IAF will continue to defend the country with all its power because "we the Islamists never had a black page in this country."

"Now, and regrettably so, this treaty will receive the support of the majority which has to shoulder its responsibility before God and the people. It is democracy that allows all to speak their opinions" said Dr. al-'Umush.

But what the Islamists are calling for, he said, are not the principles of a limited party. They are calling for upholding the teachings of God and hence is the IAF call on other deputies to be "in harmony with themselves and reject the treaty."

Opposition deputies also charged that the treaty represents a deviation from coordination with other Arab parties to the peace talks and weakens the position of those still negotiating with Israel.

Leftist deputy Mustafa Shunaykat said his opposition to the treaty does not stem from his rejection of the concept of peace but from the "failure" of the treaty to abide by the decision of international legitimacy.

He accused the government of breaking its previously declared stand on the issue of refugees and displaced persons by agreeing to settle them in countries other than their homeland.

Harsh criticism of the government also came from Deputy Tujan Faysal who said the government was oppressing public freedoms. Ms. Faysal questioned the motivation of the deployment of security forces around Parliament, suggesting it resulted from lack of confidence.

Ms. Faysal said she "would use the margin of freedom" allowed to her as a deputy who has parliamentary immunity and speak against the treaty and "the lies the government is making."

She said this immunity was guaranteed by the Constitution and not by any other individual. Those who attempt to take away this immunity, she said, will themselves lose their immunity because they will be violating the Constitution that gave it to them.

Opponents of the accord also focused on a clause that allows Israelis to remain in Jordanian land under the "jurisdiction of Israeli law." They said this "concession" is a precedent that makes a mockery of the government's assertions that it has regained its sovereignty over all Jordanian land.

The Foreign Affairs Committee had responded to the opposition comments in its report, asserting that the Jordanian law will apply over these territories except in cases of disputes among Israelis who will be living in them.

The area in question, al-Baqurah in the north of the country, consists of 6,000 dunums which belonged to Israelis since 1927, the report said. Five thousand dunums were in Jordanian hands and 1,000 dunums were in no-mans land. Under the agreement, Israel gives up its claim to the majority of this land but Israeli farmers will be allowed to continue utilising an area of 830 dunums for a renewable period of 25 years, the committee said in its report.

Proponents of the peace treaty sought to refute the opposition's arguments, asserting that the treaty is "a balanced accord" that serves the interest of the Kingdom and allows it to regain all its rights in land and water.

Announcing the endorsement of the treaty by the 12-member National Democratic Alliance, Deputy 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib said the treaty "was balanced to an acceptable degree, leads to the recovery of our rights and puts an end to the aggression of the other side."

"Out of mature patriotic motives and with national pride, I announce" the support of the coalition to the treaty, said Mr. Abu-al-Raghib.

Pan-Arabist Deputy Samir al-Habashinah said Jordan did not break Arab coordination and has been the party that sought it most.

He said it was the Rabat Arab summit decision of 1974 that recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people and that made the occupied territories the responsibility of the PLO.

He said opposition was expecting Jordan to act as if it had all the resources of the Arab Nation and thus demanding from it more than it could realistically provide.

"Why wait?" Mr. al-Habashinah said in response to those who said that Jordan moved too quickly in signing the peace treaty with Israel.

"Why wait? Have we opted for peace because other Arabs are putting forward the option of war and we reject that? Are those Arabs who want us to wait worried because we will not be the last (to reach a peace treaty) when they wanted to use Jordan as a negotiating card so that they can strengthen their position in their talks with Israel?" Mr. al-Habashinah said.

The strongest response to the opposition came from President of the 17-member National Action Front 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, who said Jordan had received nothing but ingratitude for its calls for Arab coordination.

Referring to the Kingdom's support for the Palestinians, which included providing them with an umbrella for

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entering the Madrid talks, Mr. al-Majali said it was the Palestinians who went their own way and abandoned coordination with the Kingdom.

"Instead of receiving thanks for our position, we were blamed," Mr. al-Majali said.

Criticising what he called empty slogans that do not recognise reality, Mr. al-Majali said: "Those who speak of the national and Islamic dimensions" are expecting from Jordan more than it can provide and are being oblivious to the realities of the day which prove that there is no unified Arab stand or position.

Supporters of the peace process also attempted to refute opposition claims that peace with Israel will expose Arab culture to Israeli domination, saying the Arab and Muslim culture is too strong to fall under Israeli cultural domination.

Those deputies also said the Kingdom has not abandoned the cause of refugees as their future will be discussed in accordance with international law, noting that the PLO has postponed discussion of the issue.

While opponents of the treaty focused more on ideological reasons for opposing the treaty, its supporters called for viewing the accord from realistic perspectives and in terms of what it achieved for the Kingdom.

Opponents spoke of Arab ties and Islamic teachings, while proponents of the treaty emphasised that the Jordanian interests should be the yardstick against which it is measured in light of Arab division and lack of appreciation for the efforts the Kingdom has made in its pursuit of better Arab relations.

Lower House Endorsement of Peace Treaty Reported

JN0711091594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday [6 November] endorsed by a two-third majority the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty which will go into affect as law after ratification by the Upper House of Parliament and His Majesty King Husayn signs it.

Fifty-five out of 79 deputies present voted in favour of the treaty when the vote was called after a two-day session in which 52 lawmakers took the floor to express their views on the accord, which was signed Oct. 26.

The 23 deputies who did not vote for the treaty were the 17 Islamic Action Front (IAF) depuies, leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin, Khalil Haddadin, Mustafah Shunaykat, Tujan Faysal and Salih Irshaydat, who is known to be close to the Fateh movement, and Talal 'Ubaydat, whose stand came as a surprise to observers.

All deputies who did not vote for the treaty indicated their rejection of it in the speeches they gave during the debate.

Former House Speaker and Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri was absent from the session. Current Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur did not vote.

The opposition had demanded that the House vote on a motion for rejecting the treaty, which the government presented to the legislature as a draft law, before it votes on the Foreign Affairs Commitee recommendation to endorse it but the legislature decided that such a move would violate the regulations of the House.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi said the regulations stipulate that such a vote be taken when the draft law is presented to the House and before it is referred to the committee.

Deputies first voted on the separate articles of the draft law before endorsing it in its entirety.

"Today is a day that wil be remembered for democracy. It is the day of the Jordanian parliament," Mr. al-Surur said after officially announcing the result of the vote.

"This is a victory for shura and democracy which we give as a present to His Majesty King Husayn," said Mr. al-Surur amidst applause from the galleries."

Leading IAF member 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah told the Jordan Times after the vote the opposition's focus now will be on preparing a thorough programme for resisting normalisation of Jordanian-Israeli ties and the "coming Zionist invasion of our culture."

"I was not surprised by the result. We cannot but accept the decision of the majority in compliance with the democracy in which we live," Dr. al-'Akayilah said, pointing out that the IAF had made clear its position on the treaty and warned against the ramifications for the country.

The Upper House of Parliament will begin its debate of the treaty today, Monday, and it is certain that the 40-member Senate will endorse it.

In an address to the House before the vote was taken, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali rejected opposition claims that the treaty fell short of realising Jordanian rights and has pushed Jordan away from the Arab World and closer to Israel. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Affairs Committee, headed by Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti, had recommended that the government do all it can to reacquire lands in the areas of al-Baqurah and al-Ghamr which are owned by Israelis who will continue to utilise them for a renewable period of 25 years.

It also recommended that the government pursue a just end to the plight of refugees in all international fora and take measures to protect the national economy and

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collect information on areas owned by Jordanians in Israel ahead of working out arrangement to regain them.

Dr. al-Majali took the floor after 25 deputies addressed the House to express support or opposition to the treaty.

Opposition deputies echoed remarks made by their colleagues Saturday in which they blasted the treaty for allegedly failing to produce comprehensive peace and realising all Jordanian rights.

Islamist deputies attacked the treaty because, they said, it conflicts with Islamic faith which "prohibits the recognition of Israel in Palestinian land" and because the treaty will allow for "Zionist domination" of Arab economies and culture. They also charged that the treaty isolates Jordan from the Arab World and constitutes a violation of Arab solidarity.

Those deputies also criticised the government for what they termed as its encroachment on their democratic rights to express their views. Other lawmakers in favour of the treaty, however, sought to refute these claims, saying the treaty leads to the recovery of all Jordanian rights and that Jordan is not to be blamed for the disarrary in Arab relations.

They said Jordan has always worked towards Arab solidarity.

They said Jordan was not responsible for the characterisation of the Palestinian issues as a strictly Palestinian concern because it was the Arab summit of 1974 that chose the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They said many Arabs applauded when the decision was taken as if the Jordanian connection to the Palestinian issue" was a nightmare that needed to be ended,"

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Buwayz: Country Gains From Signing Peace Last

NC0411191894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has clarified that U.S. President Bill Clinton confirmed to Syrian officials during his visit to Damascus the principle of Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and that the United States is not opposed to the implementation of Resolution 425. However, from the Israeli point of view, making such an announcement can be explained as follows: Israel is required to withdraw, but Lebanon is not required to negotiate in the peace process. The foreign minister told the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs that there is a political reason for Lebanon to be the last country to sign a peace treaty.

Buwayz said the U.S. President promised to find a compromise solution for the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. Buwayz added that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told Lebanese officials that Clinton's visit to Syria was positive.

Regarding future security arrangements in the Golan Heights and security arrangements there after Israeli withdrawal, Buwayz believes that these arrangements should be equalized between the two countries. According to the Syrians, they want a one to one ratio [for the demilitarized zone]. However, the Israelis say they want a one to four ratio. He said the American side is trying to find a compromise solution to this issue.

More From Buwayz on Golan Pullout

NC0511103994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking on the Voice of Lebanon's "Saturday Salon" Program, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that developments in the peace talks are important. He added that the principle of withdrawal from the Golan is now acknowledged, even though the Israeli side has not shown this card publicly. He added that the Israeli side keeps this card for political maneuvering and this is very important. He noted that the Golan was annexed to Israel under a law that has made this issue not only one of military occupation but a legal case as well.

He said that anyone who believes that other issues are unimportant and easy and can be resolved in days is mistaken. He added that the withdrawal's timetable is still ambiguous and the gap is wide between the Israeli proposal that involves years and the Syrian stance that deals with just months. He noted that these timetables reveal philosophical contradictions over the principle of withdrawal. He explained that, as far as Syria is concerned, the withdrawal is a logistical measure while Israel views it as political and connected to normalization.

Buwayz said: I believe that during his latest tour U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher proposed four years for the withdrawal subject to negotiations and that U.S. President Bill Clinton was later convinced of the need to shorten this timetable. Therefore, negotiations are still centered on this issue.

He added: The other outstanding issue concerns demilitarized zones, on which there are two stances. The Israeli stance is that Syria has to establish demilitarized areas four times as much as Israel; that is, each meter on the Israeli side should be countered by four meters on the Syrian side. The Syrian stance calls for equal demilitarized areas.

Buwayz said that President Clinton is convinced of the need to reach a fair solution on this point; that is, equal demilitarized areas.

He noted: Add to this the weapons issue; that is, the dismantling of some mass-destruction weapons that is being requested by Syria and Israel and has not been discussed yet.

Hizballah Official Wants 'Full' Israeli Withdrawal

JN0411194994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Interview with Shaykh Na'im Qasim, assistant secretary general of Hizballah in Lebanon, by radio correspondent Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qasim] We believe that any proposal, which is conveyed openly or covertly to the Israeli enemy and which is not within the framework of its unconditional full withdrawal, has no meaning and there is no need for it. I also believe that the amendments made by the republican presidency show that there was a kind of fault in this proposal that made the Israelis show more ambitions in the Lebanese situation. Therefore, we believe that no proposals should be made to Israel. What is required is unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territory.

[Badawi] What are the indications of the timing of this initiative?

[Qasim] It was a slip of the tongue; it was not studied well.

[Badawi] Therefore, you reject the pledge mentioned in the Lebanese president's proposal to stop the operations against Israel in six months, following Israel withdrawal, in case an agreement is reached?

[Qasim] What is required is unconditional Israeli withdrawal. We should not speak about the resistance which has a right, in fact it is dutybound, to expel the occupation forces from our occupied territory. The only way to deal with Israeli ambitions should be through confrontation until Israel fully withdraws without any condition. It should not receive anything as a loan.

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[Badawi] This also applies to your stand on the Israeli response which called for disarming Hizballah first?

[Qasim] We believe that the Israeli response is normal. We have always said that Israel is an aggressor. And the aggressor always thinks of how to maintain its occupation of territory. Any talks or dialogue with Israel in this regard is useless. However, as an aggressor, Israel wants to rest from the military and security operations waged by the Islamic resistance forces against this Israeli enemy. The last operation, the Dabshah operation—which was a qualitative operation that created controversy in Israel about the efficiency of the Israeli Army in terms of intelligence and operations—shows the effect of the qualitative blows and the Islamic resistance. This means that Israel wants to relax so as to be able to impose the conditions it wants. Therefore, we believe that resistance is the basis and the top of all priorities. Everybody should rally around the resistance. Disarming or stopping the resistance in exchange for any pledge to Israel is out of question. Israel must withdraw without any conditions, and the resistance will continue to force Israel to withdraw.

[Badawi] Therefore, on the level of bilateral talks, you still adhere to resistance as the only way to liberate the land?

[Qasim] We believe this is the only effective response. Others tried the talks, whether on the level of 'Arafat or Jordan. It has become clear how much Israel gained and how much they lost in terms of their lands and people. Consequently, the others should learn from this situation and rally around the resistance because Israel only understands the language of force. The only way to end the occupation of our land is to defend this land and this people against the occupation that uses international influence and U.S. military force to confront us.

[Badawi] If a settlement is reached on the Syrian-Israeli track, do you approve of leaving Lebanon the last in the line?

[Qasim] When Israel fully withdraws from southern Lebanon we will speak about the details.

Hizballah's Nasrallah Vows To 'Eliminate' SLA

NC0611205394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has stated the al-Dabshah operation coincided with U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to the region, the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, and the Casablanca economic summit. He affirmed that the al-Dabshah operation has had a devastating effect on Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army]. He promised to intensify efforts to eliminate these forces, including their officers and commanders.

Nasrallah Comments on Impact of Clinton Trip

NC0711080294 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has stated that the Resistance does not operate on the basis of lost time. It is at the heart of the equation to shape the future. He promised to exert efforts to carry out jihad operations against Agent Lahd's army and its commanders.

Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah said the opportunity for this is appropriate, following the operation known as the Martyrs of Palestine. He said he believes that the collapse of the Agents prompts the Zionists to emerge on the scene with greater force and more directly, giving the Resistance a greater opportunity to wage their war of attrition against them.

The Hizballah secretary general, who was speaking during a dinner banquet given by the Hizballah leadership in honor of the Resistance fighters who carried out the qualitative and heroic attack on the al-Dabshah position, stated that this operation was the greatest response to Clinton's visit to the region. He pointed out that halting the operation was very important because it coincided with the atmosphere created by Clinton's visit to the region and the signing of the capitulation treaty with Jordan. The Casablanca Summit was also held. Sayyid Nasrallah noted that the visit means America's arrival in the region in full force to impose the demeaning peace. Clinton discussed the terrorists and named Hizballah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. He said he considered them the real problem. He set the minds of Jordan, Israel, and Egypt at rest, because he believes that people cannot wake up until three months of fear and panic left by his visit have passed. This is because part of the visit was a psychological war against the Islamists and Resistance fighters. The greatest response to such a visit is this operation.

The Hizballah secretary general clarified that the Resistance named its operation "The Martyrs of Palestine" to address the Palestinians and encourage them to show resolve. The message was: We will continue the jihad path with you.

He also discussed the scene that many sides might find strange: The composure and peacefulness the fighters enjoyed while storming the Zionist position. This was evident in the video clip of the operation. It was also obvious when the flag was erected at the site.

Israeli Artillery Hits UNIFIL Irish Post

NC0511082694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from south Lebanon this morning, tension prevails in the areas adjacent to the occupied border strip following several

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acts of aggression all day yesterday and sporadic bombardment throughout last night. The Israeli enemy fired flares over several areas.

Israeli artillery bombardment of 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Tibnin, Shaqra, Bra'shit, Safad al-Battikh, and al-Jumjumah caused heavy losses in several homes and hit a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] Irish contingent post in al-Yatun mountain between Haris and Tibnin. More that 100 Irish personnel miraculously escaped as seven mortar 81-mm rounds fell in the center, causing heavy damage. Only one Irish soldier was slightly injured. Logistical personnel fixed the damage to doors, windows, and wiring. Battalion Commander Colonel (O'Neill) inspected the center.

The UNIFIL information office in Tyre organized a tour for newspapers reporters in the targeted post accompanied by (Swelly), UNIFIL officer in charge of information. He said that the batallion personnel were lucky enough to rush to the shelters just in time.

UNIFIL official spokesman Timor Goksel said that some seven mortar rounds directly hit the Irish contingent's post in al-Yatun, causing heavy damage to bedrooms, the clinic, and the communications office. In addition, three military vehicles were damaged. He noted that during the shelling of the Irish contingent post in Bayt Yahun, it was also hit by hundreds of machinegun bullets from raking operations by the South Lebanese Army militias. The enemy forces closed the Bayt Yahun crossing point and launched large-scale raking operations in nearby areas.

Fadlallah Lauds Resistance, Criticizes Arab Leaders

NC0511083494 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Friday speeches centered on Islamic resistance operations against the Zionist enemy in the south and the conspiratorial conference in Casablanca, in addition to domestic issues.

'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah asserted that the Lebanese mujahidin will force the Zionist enemy to withdraw from Lebanon without preconditions and that they will be able to expose the fragility of the enemy's army. He noted that the heroic al-Dabshah operation and the ensuing political battle within Zionist society have shaken the Israeli military institution.

He said the defeated Arabs bowed to the Jews while the mujahidin stood forcefully against the Jews and gave the defeated regimes lessons in pride. He said that a lesson should be drawn from the qualitative, heroic operation of al-Dabshah and from those mujahidin who confer strength on the nation. Addressing some religious figures who regard the resistance as militia, he said: It is this resistance that gave Lebanon vigor and freedom.

Fadlallah said the aim of the Casablanca conference was to integrate the Zionist state in the fabric of the region and enable it to impose economic hegemony over the Arab world.

Responding to the U.S. President's statements, Fadlallah said that Arab leaders refer to the U.S. White House when making decisions, accusing their nations of extremism and violence. He asked why Clinton did not talk about Zionist violence and terrorism against the Lebanese people in the south and Western al-Biqa'. He called for confronting this age in which the United States has become an authority giving instructions and decrees to their highnesses and excellencies who are not high nor excellent.

He stressed that Islam is not terrorist and does not encroach on civilians' security. He noted that the believers do not derive their values from the arrogant and the Zionists.

Three Injured in Car Explosion

NC0611205094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A brown Peugeot-504 car exploded in front of a shop in al-Qasr township which is 10 kms from [word indistinct] at 1830 today, injuring three persons. They are: Manuel Nasir-al-Din, owner of the shop, the car driver Ghanim Taha, and Husayn Nasir-al-Din. They were taken to local hospitals for treatment. The causes of the explosion are not known yet and the security forces in al-Hirmil area have launched an investigation.

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Al-Asad Said Expecting Clinton's Message on Israel

NC0711105994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 7 Nov (MENA)—Responsible Lebanese sources have stated that, during their recent summit meeting in Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told his Lebanese counterpart, Ilyas al-Hirawi, that the Syrian Government is expecting a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton. The message will be carried by Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his Middle East tour in November, according to the sources.

Citing the sources today, the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR reports that the message will contain Israeli answers to Syrian questions that were conveyed to Clinton during his recent tour of the region. The questions deal with Israel's stance on full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon and Israel's position on Resolution 425, which pertains to Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

The paper notes that the Syrian-Lebanese summit has confirmed that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are parallel, after foreign diplomatic sources tried to insinuate that Lebanon is trying to hold separate talks with Israel following the proposal recently made by President al-Hirawi. The proposal calls for forming a joint Lebanese-Israeli committee to study the withdrawal from south Lebanon. The paper says that Damascus is holding secret talks with the U.S. Administration through the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington.

Al-Asad Confers With Lebanon's al-Hirawi

JN0511170894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the al-Rawdah Palace at 1100 [0900 GMT] today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' joined the meeting later.

During the meeting, they reviewed issues of interest to Syria and Lebanon, as well as the Middle East peace process, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. President al-Asad briefed President al-Hirawi on the results of his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Syrian and Lebanese sides stressed the importance of, and need for, continued bilateral cooperation and coordination on the peace process in order to realize its set objective and achieve what both countries are seeking in terms of regaining the occupied territories and establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

The meeting was interrupted for a working luncheon hosted by the president.

Al-Hirawi Talks, Peace Stand Viewed

JN0611085094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Nov 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the strong cohesion between Syria and Lebanon, as well as the national and pan-Arab importance of continuing coordination between the two fraternal countries at the highest levels. In this regard, the paper underscores the lengthy talks Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi have held, saying that these talks focused on the peace process, the outcome of U.S. President Clinton's visit to Damascus, and future prospects. The paper notes that during his talks with President Clinton, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad underscored the inseparableness of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations, the need to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, as well as the need for Israel to effect complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

The paper adds: This Syrian position has elicited the satisfaction of the Lebanese Government and people. This also reflected the pioneering pan-Arab position of President al-Asad, who believes that the southern Lebanon issue is as important as the Golan issue. His excellency the president has repeatedly underscored the inseparableness of the two tracks of negotiations. This has produced positive results on the international scene. For the United States has demonstrated an understanding of the position of the two countries, Syria and Lebanon. Moreover, it has recognized the need for just and comprehensive peace in the region, as well as the need to uphold the principle of trading territory for peace.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Israel has made frenzied efforts to deal with the Arab sides one at a time in order to shackle them with suspicious deals and consecrate its occupation and domination. Nonetheless, these efforts have failed to bear fruit on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations. They have failed to dissociate the Syrian track of negotiations from the Lebanese track. In the same vein, the Israeli military pressure has failed to change Lebanon's position and convictions. The Syrian-Lebanese cohesion, baptized by blood and common sacrifices, has thwarted all Israeli schemes to undermine it.

The paper concludes by saying: The common stand of the two fraternal countries has promoted their negotiating position, and placed the international community face to face with the responsibility of achieving just and comprehensive peace. Additionally, this common stand has exposed the Israelis' monstrously intransigent and maneuvering position.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Syria will continue to extend unfailing support and assistance to fraternal Lebanon, which has recovered and demonstrated fidelity to the party that has helped achieve this recovery.

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The paper addresses the importance of the Treaty of Coordination and Cooperation between the two countries, saying: This treaty is being translated into acts and deeds in the interest of the two fraternal countries and the special ties between them, which are based on mutual respect. Given this ideal relationship, coordination and consultations between the two countries have continued to address the issues that are of common concern to them, particularly common threats. It goes without saying that the threats the two countries are facing are posed by the Israeli occupation of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the remaining occupied territories.

AL-BA'TH asserts that the inseparableness of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations has lent further strength to the negotiating position of both countries. Similarly, this has shown that the failure of any Arab side to effect the required coordination with the concerned Arab sides has always undermined rights.

The paper adds: Syria and Lebanon have asserted that they will not abandon a single right. This has been reflected in their practices and deeds. The two fraternal countries have continued their consultations and coordination. Their cooperation has set an example for ideal solidarity, which must be emulated now and in the future.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Everybody is now well aware that progress in the efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace is contingent upon an Israeli willingness to effect complete withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the remaining occupied Arab territories. Unless Israel declares a commitment to complete withdrawal, the negotiations will continue to mark time.

The paper adds that Syria, along with Lebanon, will continue to adhere to the constants of peace, and to the terms of reference of the peace process, which are UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Similarly, they will continue to demand that Israel subscribe to the principle of trading territory for peace.

The paper reiterates that the achievement of the desired progress in the peace process depends on Israel's willingness to effect complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The paper refutes the allegations made by Israeli officials, who, at times, demand secret talks and security arrangements, and at times, speak of normalized relations without even expressing a willingness to subscribe to the principle of withdrawal, which is the core of any solution and the key to any progress, saying: Israeli officials are not seeking true peace and permanent stability. They are seeking partial deals to realize their ambitions and perpetuate their occupation of Arab territories.

The paper believes that true peace is the peace that would return rights to their lawful owners. This peace has been described by President al-Asad as the peace that would dismantle occupation and uphold fairness and dignity.

Report on Jordanian Parliament Peace Treaty Debate

JN0711083694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Jordanian House of Representatives yesterday ratified the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty with a majority of 55 votes, out of 79 members who attended the session. The treaty was opposed by 24 deputies while one deputy—former House Speaker Tahir al-Masri, currently outside Jordan—did not attend the session.

The House discussed the treaty over a two-day period during which 51 deputies spoke for and against the treaty.

The speeches by the opposition deputies focused on the clauses and appendices of the treaty which stipulate relinquishment of parts of the territory and allowing settlers to utilize them under superficial Jordanian sovereignty over them. They also attacked the provision allowing settlers to pump some 25 million cubic meter of Jordanian ground water.

The opposition deputies denounced ending the state of war and belligerency with Israel, which still occupies Arab territory, relinquishing Jerusalem in return for so-called religious custodianship over the sacred places, and accepting the settlement of refugees and displaced persons.

Deputy Tujan Faysal accused the government of deceiving the deputies. She said: The Government says that Jordanian sovereignty over the settlements built on Jordanian territory is full despite the fact that the provisions of the treaty say that Israeli, not Jordanian, laws apply on the settlers.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur said the treaty is a step toward establishing confederation between Jordan and Israel.

Deputy Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani said the treaty violates the Jordanian Constitution because it relinquishes parts of the homeland's soil. It also legitimizes the Israeli occupation and usurpation of Arab land, he added.

Deputy 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, an independent, said a just peace cannot be achieved unless it is comprehensive and unless the Syrians and Lebanese achieve their desired goals of regaining the rights and territory in full.

Deputy Sulayman al-Sa'd called for a general plebiscite so that the people's position on that treaty can be determined.

Deputy Ahmad al-Kasasbah wondered if Jordan had become under Israel's hegemony on the political, security, economic, and military levels according to this treaty. He urged everyone with a living and national conscience to refuse to ratify the treaty.

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Deputy Dr. Muhammad al-Hajj said participants in the peace process consider the treaty a separate reconciliation treaty similar to the Oslo Agreement and urged the House of Representatives not to ratify it.

Deputy Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the Islamic Action Front at the House of Representatives, questioned the credibility of the voting conducted in the Jordanian House of Representatives to ratify the Jordanian-Israeli treaty.

In a radio interview last night, Mansur said this result does not represent the reality on the Jordanian arena. He said the House of Representatives is the product of a temporary law which was rejected by large segments of the Jordanian people and there are demands to annul that law.

Hamzah said: We do not approve of any peace treaty that maintains the Israeli occupation and presence on parts of our homeland. We also reject this treaty because we think that it is to Israel's benefit on the political and economic levels and on the levels of waters, land, and borders.

Responding to statements by King Husayn of Jordan that the treaty offers the best terms which the Jordanian citizen can get from any treaty and negotiations to achieve peace, he said: The stage now is not ours. It is the Israeli enemy's. However, if I cannot regain my rights at this stage, then this does not mean that I cannot regain them in the future.

In occupied Palestine, the Israeli Cabinet yesterday unanimously approved the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. The Israeli Knesset had earlier ratified the treaty with an overwhelming majority.

Vice President Khaddam Addresses Ba'ath Party

JN0611142494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The comrade secretaries of the [Ba'ath] Party's branches and governors resumed their meetings this morning under comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab socialist Ba'th Party. The meeting was attended by comrades Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, members of the regional command, some comrade ministers, deputy heads of offices, the head of the party's control and inspection committee, head of the central control and inspection organization, heads of popular organizations and professional unions, university presidents, and the directors of media institutions.

The comrade heads of the popular organizations and professional unions presented briefings on the status of their organizations and unions, the extent of the progress they have made, and the role they are playing to cement national unity and enhance Syria's principled, pan-Arab stand under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic.

Afterward, comrade Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam presented a comprehensive political briefing on international and Arab developments and their effects on major Arab issues and interests. He noted the dangers inherent in the continued state of Arab dismemberment and noncommitment to the resolutions of the Arab summits.

In his remarks, comrade Khaddam reviewed developments in the peace process, including developments on the Palestinian scene and the disappointment felt by the Palestinian people as a result of the involvement of some Palestinian leaders in concessions to Israel, giving it major gains at the expense of the Palestinian people's national rights.

The comrade vice president explained the dangers of sliding into separate agreements, including the dangers of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

Comrade Khaddam reviewed the latest developments of the peace process and the talks that U.S. President Bill Clinton had with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. During these talks, Khaddam noted, the president stressed Syria's constant policy regarding the peace process and its objective requirements. The president also stressed Syria's continued commitment to the peace process on the basis of international legitimacy, UN Security Council resolutions, and Israel's total withdrawal to the pre-4 June 1967 border and from all occupied Lebanese territory.

Comrade Khaddam explained Syria's role in the current stage under comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the party, and its pivotal role, which has won regional and international respect and appreciation.

At the end of the political briefing, comrade Khaddam responded to the comrades' questions and queries.

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Afghanistan

Government Troops, Rebels Clash in Kabul

Rebels Launch 'Unsuccessful' Attack

LD0411172494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Golboddin-Mazari militias launched an unsuccessful attack from the western and southern portions of Kabul this morning.

A responsible security source reported to the correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY: At around 0600 this morning, the Golboddin-Mazari militias began an unsuccessful attack on the positions of the Islamic State's forces from the direction of Chehelstun, Gozargah, and Bagh-e Babor. The militia attack was defeated in the early hours due to the resistance and bravery of the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army.

The source added: To remedy their shameful defeat, the militia again embarked on retaliatory attacks during the day from the direction of Khana-e Alm Wa Farhang, Barikot, and Karta-e Chahar. This attack once again was defeated by a counterattack launched by the forces of the Islamic Army. The militias suffered heavy loss of life and material. The militias were forced to flee the battle front, leaving dead bodies behind. As a result of the counterattack by the forces of the Islamic Army, a large number of the enemy's heavy and light weapons, along with ammunition, was seized by the mojahedin as booty.

Soon after the beginning of the attack by the Golboddin-Dostam militias, the country's fighter planes started to bomb the enemy's trenches and their concentration centers. As a result of these aerial attacks, two strong militia positions were destroyed and they suffered heavy losses of life.

'At Least 94 Civilians' Wounded

BK0511113694 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 5 Nov 94

[By Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov 5 (AFP)—At least 94 civilians were wounded in the latest round of heavy fighting in Kabul between forces for and against Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, according to hospital reports Saturday. [5 November]

In a strong infantry offensive backed by heavy artillery fire the forces of the Hezb-e Eslami and their Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat allies attacked pro-Rabbani positions in south Kabul Friday, but without permanent territorial gains.

Pro-Rabbani troops resting at nearby Dehmazang Square claimed nine enemy bodies were left behind. "The enemy captured the Russian Cultural Centre from us, but held it for only a very short time before we pushed them out again," one of them said.

The 94 civilian wounded were recorded in the two main downtown Kabul hospitals from Friday's fighting. Medical staff noted there would be a "large number of casualties" on the other side of the frontlines, but details were not available.

Pro-Rabbani troops in Dehmazang said their rivals started the Friday offensive at dawn with an assault against the nearby eastern district of Babar Gardens on the other side of the Kabul River. Smoke from a huge fire in the vicinity of Babar Gardens was still billowing into the sky Saturday, reportedly from nearby buildings of the former state-owned heavy industrial estate called Jangalak, controlled by Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction.

Skirmishing between the frontline positions of pro-Rabbani troops and Wahdat continued Saturday in front of the Mohammadia Mosque just west of Dehmazang Square, where sporadic fire from small arms and recoilless rifles were heard.

Pro-Rabbani troops said they were trying to blast a small pocket of Wahdat fighters from the Ghazi High School, which is situated in front of the blue-domed mosque.

At Kabul University defending pro-Rabbani troops said there had been no Friday offensive against their positions although they came under heavy weapons bombardment. The University Library continues to suffer the ravages of bombardment and looting of books. Two civilians seen stuffing volumes of fairy tales and commentaries of the Holy Koran inside their clothes claimed the books were for reading at home. "If we want to fuel our winter fires we will take the Russian-language books," they said.

In the wake of Friday's fighting Kabul was mostly calm Saturday. Pro-Rabbani gunners harrassed Wahdat with intermittent heavy weapons' fire but the capital was spared of heavy rocketting by Hezb forces.

10 Dead, 50 Injured in Clashes

LD0511161194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes have intensified between the warring sides in Kabul. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad:

[Unidentified correspondent] Fierce clashes erupted today for the second consecutive day in areas in the west and southwest of Kabul between the forces who support Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the forces loyal to his opponent, Golboddin Hekmatyar. According to Afghan sources, the clashes were particularly fierce in the areas of Dehmazang, Koh-e Tup, and Bagh-e Babor, and the exchange of heavy fire and missiles continued

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between the two sides. The sources say that at least 10 people were killed and more than 50 injured in recent clashes.

'Severe Shelling' Reported

LD0511182094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The warring factions in Afghanistan continued the severe shelling of one another's positions in parts of western and southwestern Kabul today.

[Unidentified correspondent] These clashes were more severe in the areas of Dehmazang, Koh-e Tup, and Bagh-e Babor. Heavy weapons fire and rockets were exchanged between the two sides. It is being said that at least 10 people have been killed and over 50 wounded during the recent clashes.

Sources affiliated to the Coordination Council [opposed to President Rabbani] are claiming that, during their advances, the opposition forces captured several positions previously held by the Supervisory Council in the Bagh-e Babor and the traffic headquarters [in Dehmazang] and that they captured at least eight members of the government's forces.

A source affiliated to the president of Afghanistan has rejected these claims and stated that the attack by the opposition forces has been foiled.

The new clashes in Kabul have flared up in circumstances in which Mahmoud Mestiri, the head of the UN special peace delegation, met and conferred with Afghan leaders Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, Pir Seyyed Gilani, Mowlawi Yunes Khales, and Dr. Taleb in Peshawar yesterday in continuation of his efforts to resolve the Afghan crisis.

'Hireling Coalition' Attack Defeated

LD0611143894 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The hireling Moscow-Paris coalition faced a defeat in the southwest of Kabul city. A responsible source of the High Coordination Council [HCC] told a correspondent of RPA [Radio Paygham-e Azadi] that armed men of the hireling coalition mounted an unsuccessful attack the night before last in the area around the Science and Culture House and Cinema Barikot where it faced a strong resistance by the HCC. The attackers were forced to flee leaving a number of dead and wounded.

The report says: The hireling men of the coalition administration mounted this attack after a number of important positions of these coward hirelings were captured the day before yesterday by the HCC forces. The report adds that after that notorious defeat, armed men of the coalition subjected residential areas in southwest Kabul to heavy weapons fire. As a result of that savage attack, a number of our innocent compatriots were martyred and a number of houses were destroyed.

Factional Fighting Reported in Kabul

LD0411195794 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of infighting between the Sayyaf and Shura-e Nezar groups, 15 of our compatriots have been martyred. Quoting eyewitnesses in Kabul city, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that differences are increasing between the Sayyaf and Mas'ud groups as a result of the killing of Commander Hamid and some other Sayyaf commanders by Mas'ud forces.

The report adds that fighting broke out last week between Sayyaf and Mas'ud supporters in Karta-e Parwan. In addition to losses of personnel in the belligerent parties, 15 of our innocent compatriots who were engaged in their everyday activities were martyred in Karta-e Parwan in the fighting last week.

The report adds that the fighting broke out when Sayyaf forces found a body of one of their compatriots in the vicinity of General Fahim's house.

Mas'ud, Babajan Units Clash in Kabul; 13 Dead

LD0511192394 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of factional fighting between the defamed [Ahmad Shah] Mas'ud band and the Babajan men, 13 men from the belligerent sides were killed or wounded.

Quoting eyewitnesses, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that heavy fighting broke out a while ago in Khayrkhana between the Babajan men of the [Kabul] garrison and the armed men attached to the Supervisory Council. During this fighting, which lasted for an hour, eight men were killed and another five men were injured from both sides.

The report adds: The fighting broke out when three armed men from the Mas'ud band entering a military headquarters of [Kabul] garrison were stopped and disarmed by the Babajan men. The report adds that the fighting ended after intervention by the leaders of the Supervisory Council and General Babajan himself. It should be added that a number of our compatriots who were near the place where the incident occurred were either killed or injured.

'Fragile' Cease-Fire Established in Kohdaman

LD0511144494 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of a mopping-up operation carried out in the western and southwestern areas of Kabul by the High Coordination Council's

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forces, several positions of the mercenary coalition forces were conquered yesterday morning.

The forces of the High Coordination Council carried out a series of operations yesterday morning in the west and southwestern directions of Kabul. As a result, five important positions of the mercenary coalition were conquered in the Bagh-e Babor area of Kabul city.

A large number of men from the coalition administration were either killed or injured during this operation. The exact number of dead and wounded is not yet known. The forces of the High Coordination Council took prisoner several men of the coalition and have seized a large number of weapons as booty.

According to another report, after this defeat the coalition forces carried out aerial bombardment of residential areas in Gozargah, Jangalak, Chehelstun and some other residential areas, as a result of which a large number of innocent compatriots were either martyred or wounded and several houses destroyed. This criminal action of the coalition administration has further aroused our compatriots' hatred and repulsion.

After intensive fighting in Kohdaman between the mojahedin and the communist servants, a fragile cease-fire was restored yesterday.

Quoting a source, a correspondent for Radio Message of Freedom reports from this region that the fighting which had been going on for the last two days in Shakardara and Saray-e Khowaja districts between the Jehadi commanders and the seditious KHAD [government intelligence service] servants ended with a fragile cease-fire yesterday morning through the mediation of Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi.

The fighting broke out last Wednesday between commander Mohammad Anwar, Haji Daod, Mestari Saydbaba, Sofi Na'em, and the KHAD servants, because of direct interference by Masud and Fahim. As a result of this fighting, the Jehadi commanders succeeded in gaining full control of the situation and completely foiled the treacherous KHAD conspiracy.

The report adds the above commanders are enjoying full support of the local people. The report also adds that because of the tense situation it is feared that the fighting could resume at any moment.

Dostam Exchanges Trainer Planes for Sukhoys

LD0511204894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dostam has exchanged two L-39 trainer airplanes for two Sukhoy fighters. In a recent issue, the MOJAHED newspaper has written that two L-39 airplanes, which were used for the training of air force students, have been exchanged for two Sukhoy fighters with Uzbekistan. The L-39 airplanes are Czech made and were used for the training of air force officers. According to military officials, the price of the L-39 airplanes is very high. The reason for this transaction by Dostam is that the Dostam-Golboddin militia face a possible shortage of warplanes. On the other hand, a large number of the militia's warplanes have been shot down by the fighters of the country's Islamic army, and a number of them have been damaged as a result of the bombardment by the country's air force.

High Council Reaches Decision on UN Proposal

LD0511180994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, chaired by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was held today.

The press office of the Islamic State reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the session was attended by esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, chief justice; esteemed engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzay, deputy leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] and minister of Housing and City Construction; esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud from the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] of Afghanistan; esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayd Mohammad 'Ali Jawid, deputy leader of the Haraket-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] of Afghanistan; esteemed Mowlawi Jalilollah Mowlawizay, minister of education and training; esteemed Hojjat-ol Eslam Mohammad Akbari, head of the Political Committee and spokesman of the Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity]; Mohammad Hosayn Anwari, minister of labor and social affairs and head of the Military Committee of the Haraket-e Eslami; esteemed Alemi Balkhi, acting head of the Central Council of the Wahdat-e Eslami; esteemed Mostafa Kazemi, member of the Central Council of the Wahdat-e Eslami and esteemed (Shadban Ahmadi), deputy minister in the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled and member of the Executive Committee of the Haraket-e Eslami.

A comprehensive discussion was held on the United Nations proposed commission. Regarding today's session of the High Council of the Islamic State, the spokesman of the Islamic State, esteemed 'Abdol-'Aziz Morad, said: The decision of the High Council of the Islamic State regarding the proposed commission by the United Nations has been finalized and will be conveyed soon to esteemed Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN envoy.

UN Awaits Hekmatyar's Response on Peace Plan

LD0711084594 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, 7 Nov (IRNA)—The U.N. special mission on Afghanistan has yet to receive official response of Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar who had suggested some "modifications" in the U.N. peace plan, U.N. sources here told IRNA on Monday.

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"Hekmatyar had made some comments on our peace package and also had some counter proposals," the sources said on Hekmatyar's meeting with leader of U.N. mission Mahmoud Mestiri in outskirts of Kabul last month.

The U.N. peace plan calls for holding of cease-fire, formation of a 26-man commision to monitor transfer of power from President Borhanoddin Rabbani, formation of a transition government, raising of a security force for Kabul and convening of traditional Grand Afghan assembly.

Factions supporting President Borhanoddin Rabbani have accepted the U.N. plan, "in principle" but also have suggested some modifications. Rabbani's counter proposal calls for a commission made up of 18 mujahideen faction representatives, each from main faction with 60 Afghan provincial representatives and only 10 expatriate Afghan advisors.

Spokesman for U.N. special mission Okelo Francis when asked to comment said, "they are looking into (Rabbani's) proposals".

Mission leader Mahmoud Mestiri, after discussing his peace plan with different Afghan leaders, has gone to New York to submit his report to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. U.N. General Assembly currently in session is expected to discuss Afghan issue later this month.

Pro-Pakistan 'Students' Respond to Convoy Attack

BK0411113894 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Quetta, Nov 3—The pro-Pakistan students of religious institutions have launched a two-pronged attack against the joint forces of three Afghan warlords in southern province of Qandhar, where a Central Asian states' bound trade convoy was held since Monday reports here said Thursday. There was however no word about the casualty from the either sides.

The trade convoy carrying food stuff and medicines for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as a "gesture of goodwill" from the Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto was stopped on gun-point by the armed men of commanders Amir Lalai and Mansoor of the disbanded Esmat Militia in Qandhar late Monday.

The warlords demanded their share and when the convoy leaders refused they made them hostage and looted the food stuff.

Some reports claim that two top officers of an intelligence agency accompanying the trade caravan, were also held hostage along with other personnel and are being kept in "Qila Jajdid" in outskirts of Qandhar.

The students known as "Talibs of Deni Madrassa" were reportedly advancing towards the Qandhar city after seizing hills overlooking the main city.

Forces of Fazal Khan Ghabzai, who control the Qandhar Airport have also jumped into the fray, to repulse the attack of the students.

Meanwhile the Governor of Qandhar Gul Agha, whose armed men were also fighting against religious students, dashed to Islamabad apparently to convey the demands of the embattled commanders. One of the demands was expulsion of the religious students from Qandhar or ending their interference in the administrative affairs of the province.

Some reports say that Pakistan paramilitary Frontier corps personnel in guise of "Afghan religious students" have also joined the fight against the commanders.

Some watchers of the Afghan crisis blamed the Interior Minister General (Retd) Nasirullah Babar for igniting the clash giving wrong advice to PM for sending 30 trucks caravan to Central Asian states via Afghanistan where no central authority exists. He trapped Benazir Bhutto, they said.

25 Reported Killed in Qandahar

BK0511093294 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Quetta—As many as 25 persons were reported killed and many others wounded in a pitch-battle between the religious students of Deeni Madrassas and local Afghan commanders in Qandahar province who have detained a Pakistani trade caravan since Monday.

According to reports on Friday, fierce fighting was going on since Thursday near Takhta Pul without any respite killing over 25 persons and injuring many others from both sides. However, the official sources posted at border Chaman town told that no injured was brought to Pakistan for treatment so far.

In the meanwhile the religious students who formed a "Shariah Group" against the local commanders were reported to have advanced towards Qandahar where the 30-trucks caravan was detained for the last four days. Two arms depots and three check-posts of the local commanders were captured by the religious students.

Pakistan's efforts through Afghan Commanders for seeking release of the convoy-men including two top officials of an intelligence agency have not been successful so far as the commanders were insisting for acceptance of their demands which they have had already conveyed to Islamabad through Governor Qandahar Gul Agha.

In another report the personnel of the Frontier Corps entered in into Afghanistan last night to back-up the religious students apparently for quick end to "convoy

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drama" and ensure its upward journey to Central Asian Republics to deliver the goods loaded on the vehicles on the special instructions of the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as a gesture of goodwill for the Central Asian Republics.

Bangladesh

Information Minister Offers Resignation

BK0511130394 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Information Minister Nazmul Huda has resigned from the Bangladesh cabinet. He tendered his resignation letter to the prime minister and the president has accepted the resignation. Commerce Minister Mohammad Shamsul Islam will be in charge of the Information Ministry in addition to his own portfolio.

[Hong Kong AFP in English in a Dhaka datelined item at 1208 GMT adds the following: "Prime Minister Khaleda Zia fired Information Minister Nazmul Huda, a day after he gave an interview to a local daily on Bangladesh's protracted political impasse, a government official said Saturday.

"An aide to the prime minister told AFP that Huda submitted his resignation after being asked to do so as the 'government does not subscribe to the views' expressed in his interview carried Friday in the Bengali daily, INQILAB."]

Opposition Formally Threatens To Resign

BK0711063894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0622 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Nov 7 (AFP)—Bangladesh's main opposition parties have threatened to resign en masse from parliament, if their demands for fresh elections under an interim government are not met, news reports said here Monday [7 November].

A spokesman for the opposition, headed by Sheikh Hasina Wazed of the Awami League (AL), was quoted as saying on Sunday that the date for the resignation would be announced at a mass rally to be held outside Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur's office on Wednesday.

Shortly after the statement was made, Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur called a meeting of her cabinet and party leaders to discuss the latest development, aides said.

The daily Morning Sun reported that Ziaur was to continue consultations for one or two days before deciding on the government's course of action.

If the threatened walkout goes ahead, it will involve the AL's 95 parliamentarians, 35 MPs of former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party, and 20 lawmakers of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Commonwealth-brokered talks aimed at solving the country's eight-month-old political standoff ground to a halt last week, with no date set for the next round.

Wajed first threatened the resignation on November 1, having asked opposition lawmakers to prepare their resignation letters by November 9.

The situation was further aggravated Saturday, when Ziaur fired her information minister Nazmul Huda for a published interview he gave to a local daily contradicting the government's known stand on the oppposition demand.

The Commonwealth special envoy Sir Ninian Stephen has reportedly recovered from a mild illness and has resumed efforts to bring the two sides to the table.

The opposition has been boycotting parliament since March, pushing demands for fresh elections, arguing that fair polls under Ziaur's regime are impossible. Ziaur has routinely rejected the demands as unconstitutional and said the issue could be resolved through dialogue within the constitutional framework.

Ziaur came to power for a five-year term in the country's first free elections in 1991, following the resignation of Ershad's nine- year-old military-backed regime in 1990.

Editorial Upbeat on Prospects for Political Dialogue

BK0511081194 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Oct 94 p 5

[Editorial: "Consensus the Dialogue Way"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We don't risk speculating about how and where the ongoing dialogue between the government and the opposition will end up. This is not to say we are with the cynics and pessimists. We have made bold (encouraged by the newfound warmth that has marked the four sittings) to look forward to a pleasant finale to the bilateral parley which has so far been in no serious trouble and is looking like ending well. One also cannot miss the scenario that has kept developing outdoors besides the proceedings indoors.

Mass contact by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, is going on as usual and the general public wait on tiptoe for the two leaders meeting across the table to bring the dialogue to a successful conclusion.

Amid such prospects and expectations, one important thing that has happened is: the two sides—the government and the opposition—have been together in face-to-face rounds of talk, a thing that had looked almost impossible to have ever happened before the intervention by Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku and the presence of his special envoy Sir Ninian Stephen to get things moving according to plan.

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The distance having, blissfully, narrowed a conciliatory milieu has emerged if we have not very greatly erred in evaluating the atmosphere in which the talks are being held. A simple human fact is: human relations may dramatically improve on direct personal contact for an exchange of views. And politics is nothing if not an exciting human communication affair. This is what has to be kept up by conscious effort on both sides.

Incidentally, we have also observed that in the course of the talks the participants were seen relaxing from time to time showing a welcome departure from the strains of the past. Politically, for Bangladesh all this constitutes much of an asset: spatial distances starting to disappear might eventually make the minds meet, to make resolution of the crisis much easier. The cumulative result of such political rapprochement can be a consensus on the most general and vital national issues. And consensus is what is most in demand in Bangladesh politics as it is in some other party-politics-or-clan- ridden poor developing societies.

Why we do not tire of repeating such a national need is because, given this; Bangladesh could have assuredly become one of the most viable democracies (politically) and flourishing economies in South Asia (economically). That this is no idle thought could be demonstrated by allowing cooperation and a consensus to work for a given span of time through a solemn truce signed by the hitherto feuding parties.

To what extent the country's economic growth has been obstructed by the continuing lack of consensus ought to be common knowledge by now. And to prevent it has become as common a national imperative. From the point of (party) politics, Bangladesh can claim to be one of the most "developed" societies. But from the point of social development it remains most undeveloped.

Education, health, social order and peace, control of crime and violence on which social development rests stay as neglected as ever, to put it most plainly. And all this seems to have been sacrificed at the alter of party politics. Education, secondary post-secondary and higher, has been among the worst casualties of party politics. As a result a new generation of population, educationally most ill-equipped, is what the country looks headed for.

Here is a country rich in natural and human resources. Both have become victims of circumstances chiefly because of the nation's leaders being involved more with party politics than with how to turn to the best use the twin resources of the country. In consequence, one is running to waste as irreparably as the other.

The impediments either in education or in the economy and the maintenance of social peace and order (which is spiralling to new depths of decline by the day) could be removed once political leadership in both camps decide by consensus these should. The Commonwealth-brokered dialogue could, against such a background, be a God-send. And our local effort needs to be directed to turning it to the best possible account with the participating leaders setting their minds on a solution the dialogue way. And the congenial climate that has emerged is what has impressed us as the extra dimension the dialogue has achieved, or at least appears to, considering the fact it is more than time the political crisis was resolved.

Iran

Scud Missiles Fired at MKO Camp in Iraq

MKO Spokesman on 5 Nov Attack

NC0611115894 Paris AFP in English 1104 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 6 (AFP)—Iran's main opposition group denied Iran had raided one of its bases outside the Iraqi capital on Sunday [6 November] and said a rocket attack on another camp left no casualties.

"There was only one attack, by surface-to-surface missiles fired from Iranian territory on Saturday night at the Ashraf base," 80 kilometres (50 miles) inside Iraq, a spokesman for the People's Mujahedeen [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—MKO] said.

Farid Soleymani told AFP there were no casualties at Ashraf, which lies 120 kilometres (75 miles) northeast of Baghdad, although some empty buildings were damaged. The camp was struck by four missiles, including at least one Scud-B, which has a range of 300 kilometres (180 miles), the Iraq-based Mujahedeen said in a separate statement. They were fired from the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, it said.

Iran's official news agency IRNA reported earlier that Iranian border guards attacked the Abu Ghorayb base, just 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the Iraqi capital, and killed a number of rebels. "While chasing two teams of the terrorist Mujahedeen, border guards invaded an MKO (Mujahedeen) congregation center" in Abu Ghorayb, it said.

Earlier on Sunday, Iranian border guards intercepted two groups of the Mujahedeen comprising of seven rebels trying to enter Iran's southwestern province of Ilam from Iraq to sabotage oil installations, IRNA said.

The agency, without saying Iran was responsible for the attack on Ashraf, added that Iraqi opposition sources had heard four "strong explosions" at the camp and seen ambulances rushing to the scene on Sunday. The Mujahedeen, which did not confirm it had a base at Abu Ghorayb, denied any infiltration bid. "This absurd claim, which does not fool anyone, is a transparent ploy to justify the missile attack on the Ashraf camp," it said.

Reports Indicate 'Serious Damage'

LD0611120894 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—The terrorist Mojahedin Khalq-e Organization (MKO)

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Sunday [6 November] confirmed that four huge explosions occured consecutively at its base near Baghdad. An MKO spokesman in Paris said that blasts were huge and occured in a row but declined to say whether there have been any casualties or losses.

Reports reaching here from Iraq indicated that serious damage and casualties have been inflicted on MKO as a result of the explosions. Iraqi dissidents say that they had heard the sound of at least eight explosions.

Early Sunday, MKO terrorists clashed with Iranian border guards in western border area. According to Iranian border authorities in Ilam Province, Iranian border guards engaged in a clash with a group of MKO terrorists who had crossed into Iranian territory to plant bombs in oil pipelines and installations at Mousian District. Following the clash, Iranian forces chased the MKO terrorists and dealt heavy blows on them.

Mojahedin Radio Reports Attack

NC0611173794 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1700 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The criminal clerical regime displayed its ultimate abjectness last night before the just resistance of the people of Iran and resorted to its last card and flouted all international regulations and UN Security Council resolutions by firing three Scud-B missiles on the Ashraf base, using weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles. The command headquarters of the National Liberation Army [passage indistinct].

The leader of the National Resistance Council added: The violation of (?Article) 98 of the Security Council [words indistinct]. He continued: The clerics have resorted to these devious means due to the daily rise in the wave of support by the Iranian people for the elected President Mariam Rajavi, which has been climbing throughout the past month of Mehr during the Mehrgan festival [autumn celebrations by Zoroastrians] [passage indistinct]. It is the clerics who have sustained defeat. [words indistinct]

Captured MKO Member Admits Plans

LD0611202594 Tehran IRNA in English 2012 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ilam, Nov. 6, IRNA—Mojtaba Oveysi, a captured member of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), admitted today that on Saturday, November 5, he was expecting to be joined on Iranian soil by other MKO terrorists from Iraq, and that they intended to blast economic installations, oil pipelines and oil wells in this western border province.

A group of Iraq-based MKOs on Saturday jumped the Iranian border into Musian, near Dehloran, to carry out acts of sabotage. They were subsequently engaged in a bloody gunbattle with Iran's border guards. Two of them were killed and also two Iranian border guards were injured, one fatally.

Oveysi said another MKO terrorist, whom he identified as Mokhtar Haydari, had been killed in an exchange of fire with the security forces somewhere near the Iraq-Iran border Saturday.

A security official in Ilam Province said Sunday that the said member of the MKO had not heeded the warning of the Iranian border guards and had opened fire on them.

Paper Praises Actions Against MKO

LD0711091994 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 7 Nov, (IRNA)—A morning daily Monday [7 November] said that agents of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) have been aptly called the "hypocrites" because of their nefarious activities directed agaist the Islamic republic, both at home and abroad.

Referring to the intensificaion of the MKO campaign of disinformation against Iran through clandestine radio broadcats, "TEHRAN TIMES" wrote in its editorial, "their objective is to create chaos in the country and to divert the goals of this sacrifice-loving nation to their benefit."

Since the establishment of the Islamic system in Iran under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni, the self-sacrificing officials of this country have always remained at the service of the nation and never displayed arrogance in the face of public pressure, it noted.

"The hypocrites should know by now that they will never gain a footing among devoted Iranians who will not put in the archives of their memories the martyrdom of top revolutionary figures which they engineered," the editorial added.

This nation will not forget the treason committed by these hypocrites when they encouraged the Iraqi enemy to rain missiles on the defenseless people while they enjoyed the shelter, financial and other assistance of the Baghdad regime, it wrote.

"The events of yesterday are a most fitting answer to the anger of the Iranian nation against these hypocrites and we expect the security forces to be more vigilant and destroy each and every base from where even a single bullet may be directed towards Islamic Iran," said the article.

"We hope that the Iraqi regime will do itself the favor of putting an end to the sufferings of its nation by simply being a peaceful neighbor," it continued.

The paper concluded by saying that any nuisance committed by these hypocrites will ultimately call for resonsibility on the Iraqi regime, a response befitting a country that believes in Islam.

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Iraqi Envoy Summoned

LD0711111994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of infiltration by sabotage teams of the hypocrites minigroup [reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq, MKO] entering from the Iraqi border areas to the country's western and southwestern regions, and the start of their sabotage works in the oil installations of the Musian region, the Iraqi charge d' affaires in Tehran was summoned by the Foreign Ministry yesterday morning. The Islamic Republic of Iran Government's strong protest and dissatisfaction were conveyed to him about the behavior of the Iraqi Government in its support for provocations of the hypocrites minigroup.

During this meeting, the views of the Iranian Government vis-a-vis any operations and similar provocations, which undermines security of the border areas and security of Iran, were stressed. [sentence as heard]

The Foreign Ministry director general for Persian Gulf affairs, explaining the situation in the region, particularly the extensive presence of the foreign forces, stressed the need for the Iraqi Government to reconsider its policy in its support for the hypocrites terrorist group, which creates an atmosphere of mistrust in the relations between the two neighboring countries.

Opposition Implies Attack Given U.S. 'Green Light'

NC0611184294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today we contacted Dr. Sanabarq Zahidi, secretary general of the National Council for the Iranian Resistance in Paris, who accused Tehran of obtaining the green light from the United States to stage these attacks which, he said, will continue. The first question we asked him: What was the outcome of today's missile attack on the Mojadhedin-e Khalq base?

[Begin recording] [Zahidi] In the early hours this morning, the mullahs' regime attacked with Scud missiles the Ashraf base of the Iranian National Liberation Army, which lies 80 kms from the Iranian-Iraqi border. Three Scud-B missiles were used and these are weapons of mass destruction. There were losses in the base's [word indistinct] and fortifications. But, fortunately, there were no human losses.

[Antoine 'Awn] You spoke about weapons of mass destruction whose use is banned in the region. If this information is true, what did Tehran rely on in using this type of weapon?

[Zahidi] We believe that the regime's boldness in using this type of weapons against the liberation army—and this is the first operation of its kind—came in the wake of a specific development, namely the issuance of a U.S. State Department report against the Iranian regime and the Mojahedin-e Khalq. This report gave the mullahs the green light to use these weapons and paved the way for this criminal action. Hence, we should warn that this regime will continue to violate international norms if there is no decisive international resolution by the Security Council and the superpowers against this regime, which is always trying to export its terrorism and crises. [end recording]

U.S. Report on MKO Labeled 'Rude Awakening'

LD0511114894 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—An English daily Saturday [5 November] termed the recent report of the U.S. State Department on the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) as a rude awakening for the West.

The morning daily "TEHRAN TIMES" was commenting in its editorial on the report issued last Tuesday by the U.S. State Department which disclosed that the MKO had a grim record of treachery, crime, assassination and kidnapping in Iran and in other countries including Iraq. "The State Department report comes on the heels of this new awareness in the West that, up to recent times, most Western politicians were bamboozled by the tricky MKO," it said.

Turning to the anger of Western officials at the terrorist MKO for leading them to believe that they were the voice of reason and restraint and for hiding their true nature as mercenaries for Saddam, the paper termed their anger as natural saying "no victim was ever free from anger against the victimizer."

The article referred to the report of the U.S. State Department as "indicative of a rude awakening in the West, an awakening to the fact that they should not take claims by dubious freedom fighters at face value, that whatever the Islamic Republic was saying all along against the unprincipled, murderous MKO was all true."

The editorial deplored that it took a long time for the West to realize this fact. "It is sad that the West did not realize the terrorist nature of MKO when they shed the blood of martyrs such as the late President Mohammad Ali Rajaie, the Premier Hammad Javad Bahonar and Chief Justice Mohammad Beheshti," concluded the editorial.

MKO Agents Attack Diplomat's Car in Denmark

LD0511085694 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—The terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) attacked an Iranian diplomat's car in Denmark on Wednesday [2 November] in which the vehicle was severely damaged. The terrorists however failed to hurt

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the Iranian diplomat due to the timely arrival of the police at the scene of the incident.

The terrorist measure took place at a time when the U.S. State Department in an official statement had admitted that the MKO was a terrorist grouplet. The U.S. took such an open stance despite attempts by the Zionists to receive approval of the Americans for the MKO. As a result, the terrorist grouplet which had pinned hope on the U.S. support was all at once entraped in a political impasse.

Political observers believe that the attack on the Iranian diplomats took place in a bid to bring the organization out of the present deadlock and at the same time encourage its agents in Baghdad.

If Western governments, which would term the MKO as a terrorist organization in their private talks and unpublished statements, had openely announced their point of view towards the grouplet, no doubt the terrorists would not have been emboldened as such to attack the diplomats.

In 1992, the MKO agents attacked most Iranian Embassies in Europe and America and in 1991 and 1993 Iranian diplomats were targets of armed attacks in Baghdad as a result of which two of them were wounded. The MKO terrorists also murdered a Turkish diplomat in Iraq but later announced that they had mistaken him for an Iranian envoy.

'Drastic' Increase in MKO Desertions Reported

LD0311163794 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stockholm, Nov. 3, IRNA—Former members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) who have fled Iraq and are now straying in Europe in hope of finding a shelter have published documents which speak of drastic increase in the number of MKO members abandoning the terrorist organization. According to the documents, over 630 MKO members are now in Iraq residing in Ashraf camp near Baghdad popularly called as the camp of mercenaries.

On October 5, the Iraqi Defence Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid formally announced the incorporation of the MKO members as mercenaries into the Iraqi army. Al-Majid referred to MKO members as soldiers of the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn saying that there was no difference between them and Iraqi military men.

In 1983, the Iraq-based MKO members formally began collaborating with the Ba'thist army and in January 1991 they and the Iraqi army formed joint death squads and killed thousands of Iraqi Shiite Muslims involved in a popular uprising against the Baghdad regime.

Earlier this week, the U.S. State Department released a report on 26 years of operation of the MKO's terrorist activities, despite pressure of Zionist lobbies at the Congress. The report, dispatched by the ASSOCIATED PRESS Tuesday said that the MKO had no popularity with Iranians living both in and outside the country and that it was only Saddam Husayn who supported them.

The documents published by the former MKO members in Vienna with signatures of senior members of the terrorist organization warned of a sharp increase in the number of people breaking away from the grouplet. Over the past few days, Western newspapers have reported on the escape to Europe and even to occupied Palestine of splinter MKO members.

The Israeli radio in a news report in September confessed that a number of splinter MKO members had arrived in occupied Palestine to seek asylum with the Zionist regime.

A European human rights organization recently protested the breach of basic rights of MKO members by the terrorist organization. Later, a fact-finding team despatched by the human rights organization to Iraq confirmed that even the most basic rights of MKO members were routinely trampled upon in MKO camps inside Iraq.

The fact that the terrorist organization violated the primary rights of its members was also confirmed by another human rights group based in Finland about three weeks ago. According to former MKO members who have managed to flee to Europe, upon an order of Saddam Husayn, the elite Iraqi Republican Guards were keeping an eye on movements of MKO members and that MKO ring leaders have been instructed not to leave that country.

France, now hosting a number of MKO members including Maryam Qajad Azodanlou, the third wife of the MKO ring leader Masud Rajavi, has reportedly told the terrorists that as refugees they had no right to engage in political activities in that country.

Last year, 16 people who had been lured into accepting the MKO memberships called at the Iranian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and received passports to return to their home country. The repentant MKO members are now continuing their education and normal life in Iran. The Iranian Foreign Ministry has ordered all its embassies to put the necessary facilities at the disposal of those Iranians who are willing to return to their home country.

Senior Ayatollah Warns of U.S. 'Plots'

LD0411192394 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Nov. 4, IRNA—A senior alim last night held the United States responsible for the bloodshed around the world and said this satanic superpower will never be successful against the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Yusef Sane'i, in his Kharej lecture (higher theological course), also lauded the recent remarks of the

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leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, against the United States and said Washington and its aiders and abettors are trying to push Iran to the corner in any way possible. He also said the only way for perpetuation of the system of the Islamic Republic is the unity of the people and the responsible officials.

The ayatollah referred to the bullying and criminal chararacter of the United States and said as long as Washington continues its filthy objectives around the world and does not yield to the demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran there will be no ground for resuming relations between the countries.

He said the efforts of the U.S. are because of the waves of the Islamic revolution which has seriously threatened the interests of America and its stooges.

He also urged the people of the Middle East to be on vigilant against American and Zionist plots and said the heads of state towing the U.S. line intend to pave the way for Zionist infiltration on a grand scale in the region.

Commentary Views Iraqi Overtures to Israel

LD0711141994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to news dispatches, speaking in an interview with the French monthly LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, the Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq 'Aziz has said that his country has no problem with the Zionist regime and is no longer in a state of war against that regime. In justifying his remarks Tariq 'Aziz added that as the Arab brethren had decided to resolve their conflicts with the Zionist regime through negotiations, Iraq no longer finds itself in confrontation against that regime.

Such remarks by the Iraqi officials are being expressed at a time when prior to this Baghdad had tried to get more prestige and political image on the regional level by using its propaganda tools against the Zionist regime especially in view of the anti-Zionist sentiments of the Muslim people of the region, who are against the acceptance of the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

Baghdad's recent military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf that led to intense military presence of the United States and other aliens in the region left a great deal of negative impact on the Muslim public opinion in the region and eventually Baghdad's inclination for establishing ties with the Zionist regime, too, is a matter that can undoubtedly tarnish the image that the Iraqi leaders have been trying to create.

At any rate many political experts say that Tariq 'Aziz's recent remarks and Baghdad's inclination for establishing ties with Tel Aviv can be assessed to be in line with the benefit that the Iraqi regime wants to have out of the present opportunities in order to have better position in the eyes of western countries vis-a-vis the Baghdad regime. Besides, these experts believe that by establishing ties with Tel Aviv, Baghdad is trying to create the ground for the lifting of economic blockade of Iraq, imposed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

What is certain is that despite the Zionist regime's efforts in dragging the regional governments to a compromise, the efforts of the Muslim public opinion in the region against breaking the psychological barrier of the ugliness of the acceptance of the Zionist regime is something that has confronted Tel Aviv with difficulties.

Commentary Views Reopening of Hebron Mosque

NC0711074194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 7 Nov 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The mosque of Ibrahim al-Khalil, peace be upon him, will reopen today nine months after the horrific crime perpetrated by the Zionists, who massacred fasting Palestinian worshippers. This incident and its outcome again showed that the Zionist regime heads state terrorism in the occupied territories.

A glance at the crime and its outcome reveals the Zionist regime's extreme hostility toward Islam and the Muslims and its very extensive violation of the rights of the Muslims, especially those of the Palestinians. The Zionist regime acquitted the perpetrators of the al-Khalil massacre of various charges. The person who was identified as the main perpetrator has not been punished on the excuse that he was psychologically deranged. The Zionist regime has treated the perpetrators of this horrific crime with leniency and severely punished the victims of the crime—the Muslims—on the pretext of preventing the repetition of similar incidents.

For over 1,300 years the al-Khalil Mosque has been in the hands of the Muslims, who highly revere it because it houses the crypts of three prophets—Abraham, Jacob, and Isaac. But, on security pretexts, the mosque has now been divided between the Muslims and the Jews. Over two-thirds of the mosque, where the crypts of Abraham and Jacob are situated, has been given to the Jews, while the Muslims have been given only one-third. This division, which the Muslims reject, shows the illogical behavior of the Zionist regime and its political and expansionist objectives.

Despite the policies encouraging the settlement of Jews in al-Khalil during the past 25 years, the Jews constitute under 5 percent of the population of the city. The area is situated on the West Bank, which, based on the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan, should be handed to the Palestinians. It can be gleaned from the Zionist regime's attempt

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to divide the Ibrahim al-Khalil mosque that, despite its peace-seeking policies, the Zionist regime covets even that part of the territory of Palestine that it should hand over to the PLO. All these things show that hoping this aggressive regime will change its behavior and hoping for peaceful coexistence with it are nothing but a mirage and that the future will prove this undeniable truth.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0411172294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Friday Prayer Sermons by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 4 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

In my previous sermons, I said that one of the greatest injustices was unfair accumulation of wealth; unfair in the sense that it can be detrimental to others. I also referred to the campaign against the ugly phenomenon of profiteering.

Today, I deem it necessary to present a report to our dear nation about the work carried out so far. I also want to appraise the whole process and mention the negative and positive points which we have encountered during this short period of time.

I believe that this sermon is an important one which can have a serious impact on this fundamental campaign of ours. [passage omitted]

When we announced our intention to start the campaign against high prices, to be fair we were received with a lot of enthusiasm. This showed that the society was in dire need of such an action. Theoretically, we encountered no opposition from anyone. However, we did witness certain mischievous opposition, which I will come back to later on in my debate. [passage omitted]

We started our campaign from commodities which were mainly controlled by the government. We did this because we did not want things to go bad from the outset. The government controls most aspects of the import or production of sugar. The same applies to all metals. [passage omitted]

Before the task began the idea itself and the possibility of it being serious had a great effect on the market. It halted price rises in many areas and reduced prices in many others, in expectation. But, in the meantime, there was some propaganda and mischief to the effect that these measures are temporary and political, that the main policy is otherwise, that the government wants to put pressure on and shock the market through propaganda. We cannot refute that with claims; with action we must prove that it is serious. Of course, we have declared so, but our actions will prove it.

Then the matters went their course and progressed. From the start we foresaw the possibility of sabotage by freeloaders and those who have earned easy money and who have the means to put up a resistance. We had also expected sabotage by our foreign enemies, who had set their hopes on a wave of dissatisfaction resulting from high prices to weaken the society and the revolution. Of course they have agents of sabotage concerning foreign exchange and other available resources in addition to propaganda about people and numerous elements with whom they have some sort of contact, in the propaganda, political and economic fields.

Of course they began their task right from the start. They embarked on pessimistic and disheartening analyses, saying the government had altered its policies, and resorted to assorted ploys that they are good at.

The leech and free-loader classes—of course they do not accept that it is free-loading; they say it is business and involves mutual consent and is therefore proper, but we said it is not so—they too entered the scene. You can see some of the cases of resistance, rumour spreading that price policy is not serious, or excuses that you have heard, false excuses such as saying we have bought at high prices, are you asking us to sell at lower prices? [passage omitted]

In my view this was an incorrect argument by certain people. They should accept that. The thought that price policy is not serious is foolish. The law is permanent and serious. Our program does not cover a few goods for a few months; it is a long-term program, until we make the market an Islamic one and distribution fair. [Crowd chants God is great, Khamene'i is the leader]

Thank you very much. [in response to slogans in support of him] God willing, when excellent results are produced you will be truly and sincerely satisfied by the efforts which are exerted by your officials to safeguard the interests of your country and the revolution.

We tell them: See, there was a time when we did not have [any] production or the possibility of importing. Today, we are no longer faced with those [problems]. The market is truly balanced in view of the provision of needs. Only hoarding and the circulation of goods in the hands of the middlemen can temporarily disrupt the work but this will pass.

As we noticed that these acts of mischief had started, we started other programs to correct the channels [by means of which goods reach the consumers]. At this time, all those who have goods and warehouses are dutybound to report to the government every two weeks that they have goods in stock. You may ask what will be done if they do not report? If they do not report, according to the law, we shall regard them as hoarders. We have not forbidden [the possession of] goods. A person may have one million [metric] tonnes of a certain commodity—let him have it. We are not interfering with that. All that we say is that it should be known what quantity of goods they have, so

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that when there are customers the goods are put at their disposal. If a person does not announce [what he has] he places himself in danger.

Sooner or later, this will be made clear. Even if a person does not reveal [the contents of his warehouse], the employee in his warehouse who has to purchase goods at a high price from the stores will come and tell us. Additionally, we are in charge of the customs [offices], we know the [output of] factories, we are aware of all the material. With a short survey we will know, we will be able to find the route of goods. It will not happen that the goods can remain hidden from the government for a long period. Therefore, there will be no possibility of major hoarding of goods, as some people say they are worried about.

From a religious point of view, today no one can have any doubts any more; in the past two or three weeks some seemingly virtuous people have gone to some of the gentlemen [aqayun] and made certain remarks in an attempt to turn the issue back to the government and say that the government itself is responsible for high prices and so on. These are also subversive methods which I will explain. I have said that what the government charges are fair prices. What we are fighting against are high prices. [passage omitted]

Therefore, in our battle against the leeches [moftkhor] and their disturbances we will certainly emerge victorious, and they will regret it. I advise them not to resist. Even in the case of those commodities which we have not yet included in the list [of items to be declared] but which are connected to the commodities whose prices have now come down, let the retailers take the first step and reduce their prices. If someone has increased his prices due to the increase in the price of cooking oil, sugar, or some other item, or steel, or copper he should now reduce his prices before we investigate. Otherwise, from now on, in a completely specialized center that we have called the Consumer Support Center, which is an organization with extensive experience and which is fully aware of all these issues, they will investigate and will gradually include all necessary items on the list. I hope that this trend will gradually be extended in a natural manner to other commodities. If there is a feeling of fair play [by the retailers] both your troubles and curs will be reduced.

Personally, I expected that as the result of this great service which the government has provided for you, that you would be appreciative and would not bring about this situation. You have not forgotten that five or six years ago all the shops and trade centers were empty. People could receive goods mainly through limited channels, in a limited quantity, and by restricted means. Today, thousands of billions of tumans worth of goods is circulating in the society; thousands of factories are producing; there is so much agriculture and so much industry. All of these could satisfy everyone through a just profit if you act in a proper way. Do not misuse this bounty which God has bestowed on you and this blessing which has come about. Do not wish for the problem to be solved only through the force of government penal codes, through inspection, and through the closure of your work places.

This is what we hoped for, but in practice we face a different situation and we see that a number of people are not ready to act on the basis of this fair play. God willing, as a result of the supervision which will be implemented we will instill this fair play in you. Consequently, the disturbances which we expected from certain quarters began, and we have prepared ourselves for them.

There was another occurrence which was unexpected, and today I wish to complain a little about them. Of course, this is a friendly complaint and it is an explanation in order to clarify certain issues for the public opinion of the people, especially the young people and students. This is brotherly and well-meaning advice. We expected those political trends which presented themselves to society as friends [of the revolution] behind the slogans of high prices, we expected them to cooperate with us when this issue was raised. Well, if they criticized high prices, now the government has decided to act on the basis of your views. Come forward and cooperate so that we can solve the problems together.

In this we faced something contrary to our expectations and this is very surprising.

From the early days we heard certain murmurings, saying that this action was not based on principles, that it was for propaganda purposes, that it was a propaganda maneuver—for instance, for the next round of the Majles elections—that we wished to steal their slogans from them, that we wished to conquer their positions, and such words which are not worthy of a friendly atmosphere in revolutionary cooperation. When the esteemed leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] and all others have come forward there is no longer any room for such talk. So long as these issues were in the form of analysis and limited talk, we could not complain too much. Later, we noticed that certain actions had started here and there which pointed to an organized effort to fight against this [government] campaign. This is truly bitter to us, and it is very difficult to bear this—especially as it comes from those who are friends of the revolution and who are members of the family of the revolution. Those who are within should not act in an insincere manner.

They assembled in their factional [darun-goruhi] meetings and said that, first of all, [the government campaign] is only temporary and is only for the sake of the next elections. Why should one have such suspicions about one's own government and leader? Next they said it is so that the government can disarm us. Once, the government took the weapons of struggle against the United States from our hands; now they wish to take away our other weapons [for the fight against high prices]. What can we do if we also lose this slogan?

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Well, what kind of thinking is this? You can chant the same slogan and come forward. We will also say that those gentlemen led the way for this idea. There is no problem there. Let us all say the same thing. This is not a slogan, it is a movement, it is an action. It is an action and it is clear that it is permanent.

Unfortunately, there was a deeper analysis [of the price rises] to the effect that basically it would not be possible to combat price rises with the method used by the ruling regime. This analysis proposed that a war against price rises should be undertaken by those whose method of thinking is against economic liberalism. Otherwise, [they said], the move would be a simple and superficial reformist approach.

This was the leftist analysis of the Marxists, who used to offer such proposals in the past. In their past analyses, members of the Tudeh Party concluded that they should not give anything to beggars because if beggars are happy they will support the regime. They used to say: There should be dissatisfaction which will lead to popular uprising and which will topple the regime, like a fountain which falls as it reaches a climax. Such thinking is not compatible with the Islamic environment. [shouts of approval]

This is an explanation for making things clear for our public, in particular our youth and students. This is a brotherly and well-intended admonition. We expected certain political camps, which used to employ the slogans of fighting high prices in order to introduce themselves to society as caring elements, to cooperate with us when we started our campaign. If at one time you were critical of us, now suppose that the government has decided to see things your way and meet your demands. Therefore, you should now cooperate so that together we may be able to solve the problem.

However, things went against our expectations, and this was highly surprising. Right from the outset, we heard whispers that what we had done was not principled and it was instead merely a propaganda maneuver designed, for instance, for the next Majles elections. They said that the aim of this maneuver was to deprive them of their slogan and platform and leave them empty handed. They said things which were not congruent with the principles of cordial support necessary in the framework of revolutionary cooperation. When the leader of the revolution and all the others have entered the arena, then there is no room for such remarks.

When these statements were merely at the level of analysis and limited expressions, we could not complain too much. Then we saw that certain moves had started here and there which revealed signs of being an organized process of confrontation against our campaign. This is bitterly sad for us, and it is very difficult to tolerate. [passage omitted]

We were told there was a policy [by the radicals] to create problems alongside the campaign to combat price rises in order to weaken the process and to create division among the executive organs. Why should they have such a plan? Because the implementation of our principled plans would ruin their strategy. That is, the strategy of winning elections by adopting the slogan of fighting price rises. Well, such an interpretation could brainwash the young generation, such as students, and could be dangerous. Here I do not wish to name those people behind that policy. I do not wish to create problems for them. I only mention it here because I feel sorry for our youth.

Our youth, our dear children, go to university and the government spends so much money on each and everyone of them. It would be a shame if they were to fall into such traps. We should instead join hands, should help one another, should remain united, should tackle all important national problems together, and should sort out all the difficulties of this nature, instead of creating problems.

If anyone wishes to raise an issue in the proper manner, there is so much freedom these days to do so. Look at the press and the mass media. Listen to the Majles and the Friday prayers platforms. Anyone can voice his criticism, his logic, and his words. There is no need to make a disturbance or resort to illogical deeds. It would be better if we all joined hands like brothers. We Fan struggle and hold debates with friendship. Staging a political campaign is also justified. We are not against such a campaign. You [the radicals] can raise issues properly and can cooperate by representing the people whose votes you win. Any party which manages to win the majority of the people's trust can take charge of the people's affairs. This is quite practical and is possible. This method would be much better.

You can see that a triangle of profiteers [producers, middlemen, and retailers] is united against our justified movement. There are also foreign exporters who are mainly responsible for the rising prices. They intend to deprive us of our rights. There are also the domestic profiteers, who are the main targets of our campaign. There are also slogan-sellers, who wish to buy the people's votes cheaply. They play with the people's most sacred asset, that is, the people's destiny, by promoting price rises. What sort of behavior is this? Why should we create discord among ourselves to undermine the people's trust? The leader of the revolution has repeatedly stated that at present, disheartening the people and inducing pessimism among them is the greatest capital sin.

I believe that this much talk in the Friday prayer sermons was absolutely necessary in order to safeguard our nation against deceit, and to enable them to see the real process of work. These attempts to deceive the public through certain slogans which have been formulated according to specific objectives... [Rafsanjani pauses] They can listen to these. [sentence as heard]

I have given them an ultimatum and I have tried to clarify things for our people. This is because I do not want people to stand in front of this huge campaign

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which is rolling on like a massive avalanche and will run over anyone who tries to stand in its way.

We will not in any way whatsoever tolerate any disruption in our campaign, no matter who causes it. This is because we know our hardline enemies have attached too much hope to this issue. It is because we know all our services and achievements of the first five-year economic plan will be undermined by vague utterances. This is a country which five years ago faced shortages of electricity, water, fuel, roads, telephones, and so on. But we have overcome all these shortages and today no one any longer thinks of such problems. [passage omitted]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

As the first sermon became so lengthy, I will refer to the week's events briefly. Today is the 13th of Aban, an eventful and historic day which we believe is worthy of attention. It is interesting that three important events took place on this very same day but in different years and that an arrogant country and an aggressive government, that of the United States, was the root-cause of all three of those events. That is a sweet phenomena about historic events.

The main foundation of those events was laid when the Imam [Khomeyni] was sent into exile [by the shah's regime on 4 November 1963] cause his excellency the imam made an anti-American statement. [passage omitted]

To mark the same occasion [Khomeyni's exile], our country's dear students, those offsprings of society and the sweet fruit of their families, held a ceremony 13 Aban 1357 [4 November 1979], before the victory of the revolution. Again with a hint from the United States, the regime that did not want to see an anti-American struggle—because the struggle was against the United States in those days and the regime did not want to see students involved in an anti-American struggle—shed their blood and killed those innocent youth in that manner. That was a very bitter crime committed by the bloodthirsty regime of Iran and its master [the United States].

The third incident was a response to those two events by our brave and revolutionary students after the revolution. They occupied the U.S. den of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran]. That was another meaningful move. It was a turning-point in the confrontation against the mischievous acts of the United States. Yesterday the dear leader of the revolution offered a very interesting analysis. He referred to a number of very delicate points. He said that our people were entangled with the United States from before the revolution. Because they saw the United States behind all—or the majority of—the crimes committed by the Pahlavi regime during the last years of its rule. And naturally they hated the Pahlavi regime and the United States that supported it. [passage omitted]

Then their embassy became confident that no one would interfere with their work. They relaxed and became involved in plots against the system. At that time we were quite busy and could not look around us. Suddenly we realized that all the antirevolutionary currents had linked their movements to the U.S. Embassy. The American Embassy had established contacts and promised support to all those groups that they thought could stand against the main path of the revolution and the imam. It was very strange. On the one side was Islamic compassion and on the other side such cheek! It was obvious that something was about to happen. And it did. Then, even though the United States worked a great deal of mischief against us, again with a hint from the Imam the Islamic Consultative Majles resolved the issue of the American spies. And the United States still has not carried out the commitments it promised in that agreement. The interesting point about the interpretation of the leader of the revolution [Khamene'i in his 3 November speech] was that he said: If you look at the events of all this time [since 1979], you will see that the Unmited States has shown hostility and we have responded with hatred. That is the precise interpretation by his excellency. That is, those hostilities made this nation hate the United States. Even small children hate the United States now. The reason for that is their hostility [toward Iran].

If the Americans want to look at the situation in real terms, in fundamental terms, they should look back and discover the causes that made the Iranian nation hate them so. And then they should correct them. They should then prove that they are honest. They should prove that the period of hostility has passed and that they will pay compensation.

If they think that Iran is going to give in and surrender to their current bullying policy against Iran, they are mistaken. [crowd chants: God is great. Khamene'i is the leader. Death to America. Death to Israel]

This week our people passed the test. The Americans thought that because they had landed forces near us with such speed and with so much propaganda this year, that our people would be cautious. But it was to the contrary. You saw how people turned out to express their disgust. Such brave and vigilant people have to be thanked, for understanding the issues so well and for announcing their readiness. With such people it is obvious that we are not afraid of the imaginary threats that the Americans make. You may tell governments to sell or not to sell something to us but the time for such things has passed. You boycotted us during the war—officially. And you saw how we managed our war. In fact, the main weapons for our war came from yourselves. We even managed to find instruments and the spare parts for them. You can see that the world has an endless appetite for money. Who is able to boycott a country such as Iran? A country which after the five-year plan has everything inside the country and is only slightly dependent on the outside. You should abandon such talk. Go and reform yourselves. Why do you want such a surrender to yourselves of a noble and gentle nation, with

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two-three thousand years of culture and civilization more than you have. Well, it won't surrender!. You have 500 years of civilization and history. This people have a 3,000 year history. When you were savages and eating fruit from trees in the jungle, people here had a great civilization. It is not possible to force them to surrender.

The other issue these days is the presence of the Americans near us. Unfortunately something very bitter has taken place. It truly indicates the warped understanding of our neighbors, in the first place the Iraqis and then the southerners. They have created the worst possible situation for their own region. I shall tell you about it. Look, this is what they did. There are two or three rich countries, with much oil and small populations—Kuwait, [Saudi] Arabia, and the Emirates. The Iraqi move—which is itself suspicious and shady—makes them feel threatened. For no reason the Americans also point as a source of threat to Iran which is a friend. For one thing they determine the price of oil for them. Therefore by taking the oil at prices that you know, they take away half their income. And with the insignificant money that they get... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani pauses] Anyway, the main part of their income is paid to the Americans because the oil is produced by American experts and equipment and for every barrel they have to pay several dollars, up to four dollars before they come to help the production. And then they buy it cheaply. And then they say: You don't need any money, and this is how they take away the rest of their money. And this is the situation they have created. The transfer of troops is very expensive and it has been said officially that the cost of the movements is to be paid by Kuwait, [Saudi] Arabia and the Emirates. It is very expensive. An American soldier who comes here, beside the dollar salary that he is receiving there [in the United States], he receives extra for military operations. This adds up to a colossal figure. Even if they bring in a pin, they will sell it for a high price, or even a tent that they set up in the desert. Whatever they do, they add an extra service charge and deduct it from their accounts abroad.

These two or three countries had huge reserves in the world banks. Now two of them are in debt and face the danger of domestic problems. How is it possible for a country which has 1.5 million people and two billion barrels of oil a day to have a budget deficit?

And they have made it such that they are forced to beg the Americans to come. Saddam [Husayn] makes a move inside Iraq and 30,000 [American] troops come to stay for the winter, receive costs of several billion, and then go away. Well, this could continue. Whenever the United States wants some money this scenario will repeat itself. It is very easy for them to repeat this scenario. I told them: My dear fellows, let us sit together and become friends. Iran is your neighbor. We can guarantee each other and create a regional security so we wont have to pay blackmail to the American soldiers nor sell the oil cheaply. They don't understand this clear logic but are so worthless against Israel. The Casablanca conference in Morocco was a source of shame. Efforts are being made to deepen relations between Israel and the Muslim countries through trade, industry, investment, and other things which support their political move. [passage omitted]

The other point is my two recent foreign trips [to the Far East and to Turkmenistan]. I have not had the opportunity to report on these trips during my Friday prayer sermons. However, in the framework of my debate on the United States' defeats in its attempts to impose sanctions on Iran, I have to say that during my visits I clearly saw that Islam, Iran, and its revolution are deeply loved by the world's Muslim countries.

I wish you could have been there to see us in Indonesia's Jame' Mosque after the end of the Friday prayers. I wish you could have seen how these people encircled us like the jewel of a ring and expressed their interest in Iran and its revolution. [crowd chants in support] [passage omitted]

What does the United States intend to do about such a degree of interest and enthusiasm in Islam by the people? It is certain that the United States will not succeed.

Praise be to God, these days in Bosnia the Muslims have succeeded in dealing effective blows against the Serb aggressors. We have to safeguard these victories, because it is possible that those evil people may do something to reverse the trend. But, fortunately, the Bosnian Muslims are moving forward with good planning and proper calculation. The UN General Assembly passed a good resolution today for them. God willing, they will win more international support and this dastardly oppression in that part of the world will come to an end, so that the people of Bosnia can live together in peace. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Araki's Condition 'Improving'

LD0711104894 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 7 Nov (IRNA)—The condition of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki was reported as improving this morning.

The grand ayatollah's son, Ahmad Moslehi, told IRNA today that the centenarian ayatollah suffered urinary infection which doctors believe could cause some problem. The doctors had prescribed anti-biotics, he added. Moslehi called on the people to pray for the grand ayatollah's health. Ayatollah Araki is now confined at the Rajaie Hospital of Tehran.

Sri Lanka

Police Placed on Maximum Alert Ahead of Polls

BK0711041294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0351 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 7 (AFP)—Thousands of police and security personnel fanned out

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to the provinces Monday [7 November] as campaigning for Wednesday's presidential elections ended on a violent note, defence officials said.

Police stations and military establishments across the country were placed on maximum alert to prevent further violence until after the results are declared on Thursday, a defence ministry spokesman said.

"We have cancelled all leave of police and security personnel. The army has issued live-in orders so that all staff will be available in an emergency," the spokesman said.

A bomb exploded at the final rally Sunday of the opposition United National Party (UNP) at north-western Pannala town, killing one man and seriously wounding at least five others, police said.

They said there had been clashes earlier in the day between supporters of the ruling People's Alliance (PA) and the UNP. Three more people were killed in another street fight between the two parties in a central province Sunday.

The government has banned liquor sales for five days from Monday to prevent election-related violence. The worst violence came when a suicide bomber killed UNP candidate Gamini Dissanayake and 56 others during a rally here last month.

The government declared a nation-wide state of emergency shortly after the October 24 assassination but eased it Friday, restricting the tough laws to the capital Colombo and the northeast, where separatist Tamil rebels are active.

Moreover, the state of emergency, which gives sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects, is to be lifted in Colombo on Tuesday and Wednesday to allow smooth balloting, a government official said.

Dissanayake's widow Srima is challenging PA candidate and Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, who led her party to victory at the Augst 16 parliamentary elections ending the UNP's 17-year hold on power.

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